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NEGOTIATING DIFFERENCES

'BRICS will reach a common position, generate consensus'

Brazil Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira says despite divisions over West Asia, BRICS remains a platform for dialogue and negotiation

NEWS» PAGE 12

Why has RSS called for dialogue with Pakistan?

FAQ » PAGE 16

CBSE makes three languages compulsory for Class 9 students

NEWS » PAGE 11

Allen, Raghuvanshi and Narine star in KKR's win over GT

SPORT » PAGE 19

Manipur protest on; Kukis want President's Rule back

Thousands take to the streets demanding the unconditional release of all hostages; shutdown extended; they demand special security zones in vulnerable areas, stronger protection for civilians

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

PROTEST RALLY FOR
1) UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF KUKI-ZO HOSTAGE
2) DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARTER OF DEMAND UPON THE MURDER OF 3 KUKI-ZO CHURCH LEADERS.
ORGANISED BY: COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL UNITY(COTU)

Mounting tension: Protesters demanding the release of Kuki hostages and justice for three slain church leaders at Kangpokpi in Manipur on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thousands of Kuki-Zo people took to the streets in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts of Manipur on Saturday, demanding the unconditional release of Kuki hostages and justice for three church leaders killed in an ambush by extremists on May 13.

In a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, several Kuki civil society groups called for the reimposition of President's Rule in the State.

The protest rallies coincided with the extension of a 48-hour total shutdown called by the Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of Kukis in the State.

According to Manipur's Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam, more than 38 Kuki and Naga people were held captives by various groups after the killing of three church leaders. Security forces and community-based organisations helped secure the release of 28 hostages on Friday.

Unconfirmed reports said 10 more hostages were released on Saturday, but the Kuki-Zo groups said 14 community members continued to be in captivity.

Protesters at the rally organised by the Committee on Tribal Unity demanded the immediate, safe, and unconditional release of all Kuki hostages and the "urgent implementation of the charter of demands" submitted to the Centre.

These demands include a National Investigation Agency probe into the killing of the church leaders, a permanent security guarantee for civilians and vulnerable villages, the establishment of special security zones in conflict-prone areas, and an expedited political engagement with Kuki-Zomi extremist groups under the Suspension of Operations pact.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

Trump says IS leader killed in Nigeria

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

United States and Nigerian forces killed a leader of the Islamic State group in Nigeria in a mission carried out on Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump said.

Mr. Trump announced the joint operation in Africa's most populous country in a late-night social media post. He said Abu Bakr al-Mainuki was second-in-command of the Islamic State group globally and "thought he could hide in Africa, but little did he know we had sources who kept us informed on what he was doing".

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 18

Pune biology teacher held in NEET case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested a biology lecturer from Pune in connection with the 2026 NEET-UG paper leak case.

Manisha Gurunath Mandhare was appointed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) as an expert and was involved in this year's examination process.

"She had complete access to the botany and zoology question papers. During April 2026, she had mobilised prospective NEET examination candidates through Manisha Waghmare of Pune (arrested on May 14) and conducted special coaching classes for these students at her residence," the agency said.

According to the CBI, during those classes, Ms. Mandhare explained and disclosed various questions from botany and zoology, had the students note them down in their notebooks, and also marked them in their textbooks. The majority of these questions tallied with the actual question paper of the NEET-UG 2026 examination held on May 3," the CBI said. The agency has so far arrested nine accused in the case.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11
CONG. SEEKS RESIGNATION » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Bulky waste will now be picked up from doorstep

BENGALURU
The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has launched a new mobile app "DClutter" through which one can book an appointment with civic authorities to pick up bulky waste like old furniture, sofas, mattresses, cupboards, from their doorstep. The service will be free as well.

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CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 8
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Full list of Kerala Cabinet Ministers will be out this evening: Satheesan

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid intense speculation over Cabinet formation and portfolio allocation in Kerala's new United Democratic Front (UDF) government, Chief Minister-designate V.D. Satheesan indicated on Saturday that the full list of Ministers will be handed over to Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar by Sunday evening.

Mr. Satheesan said the full Council of Ministers would take the oath of office at 10 a.m. on Monday at the Central Stadium here.

The State capital witnessed hectic parleys and negotiations through the day, as the Congress-led UDF steered discussions to finalise the Ministerial berths. Rumours suggest that the Chief Minister is considering holding on to the Finance portfolio himself.

Speculation is rife that senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala, who was reportedly disgruntled over being bypassed for the Chief Minister's post, will join the Cabinet as Home Minister.

V.D. Satheesan

Mr. Satheesan and AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal met Mr. Chennithala for conciliatory talks. Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, Mr. Chennithala restricted his comments to one sentence: "I'm always a true Congressman."

Reports suggested that Mr. Chennithala demanded Ministerial berths for Anwar Sadath and T.J. Vinod. Mr. Satheesan said decisions in the Congress and the UDF are made democratically and in consultation with everyone.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

India rejects CoA's award on Indus Waters Treaty

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India on Saturday rejected an award reportedly issued by the Court of Arbitration (CoA) at The Hague on Friday, reiterating that it does not recognise the tribunal as legitimately constituted. The award concerned maximum pondage at Indian hydroelectric projects on the Indus river system.

"India categorically rejects the present so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements of the illegally constituted CoA," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, adding that any decision of the body was "null and void."

Treaty in abeyance

India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, Mr. Jaiswal said, remained in force.

No official communication of the award is publicly available on the website of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which acts as the secretariat to the CoA. The recent press release listed there is dated May 11, which announced the conclusion of a three-day hearing held on April 28 on Pakistan's request for interim measures and the status of the Treaty itself.

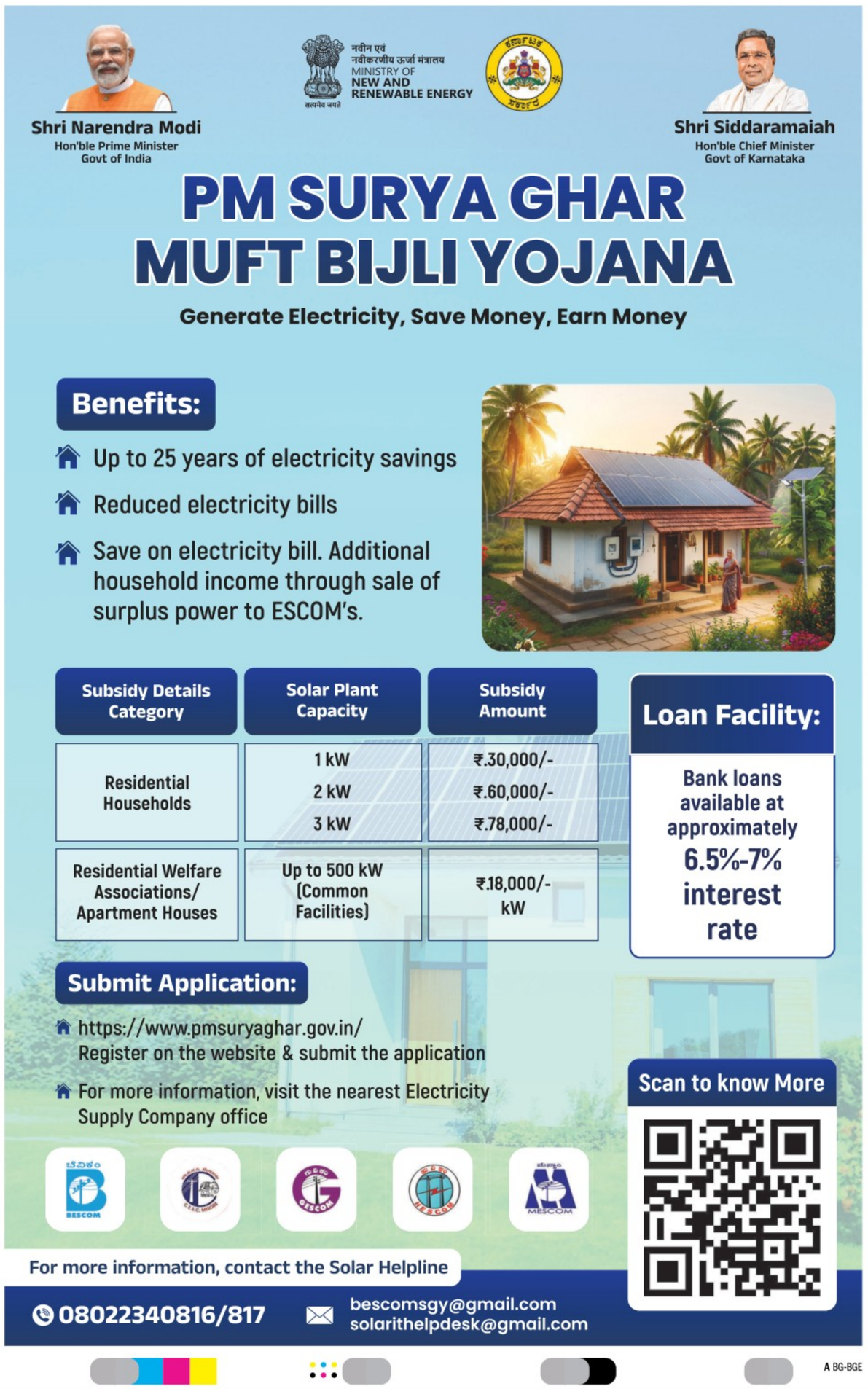
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

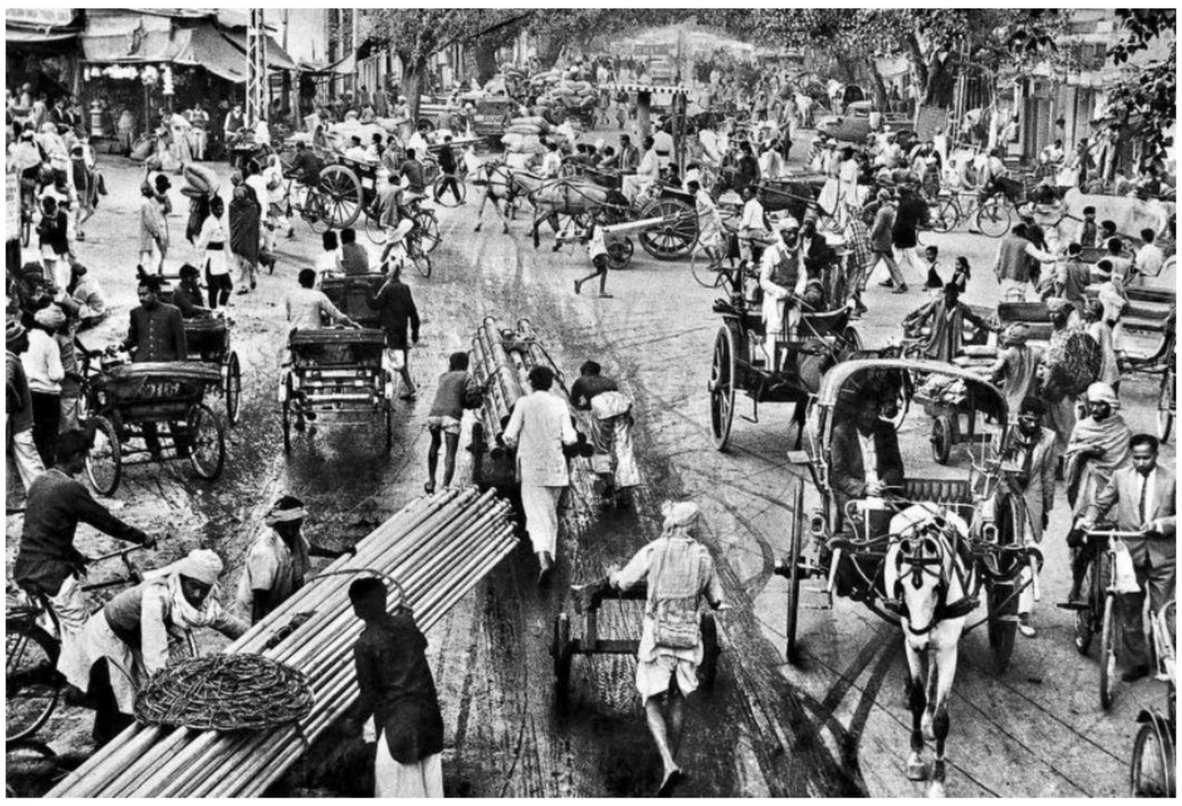
1,122 more medical seats in State's kitty

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Medical seats in Karnataka's government colleges are set to go up by 1,122 for 2026-27, with the National Medical Commission approving the enhancement. The Union government has also sanctioned ₹1,090 crore for the development of government medical colleges in the State.

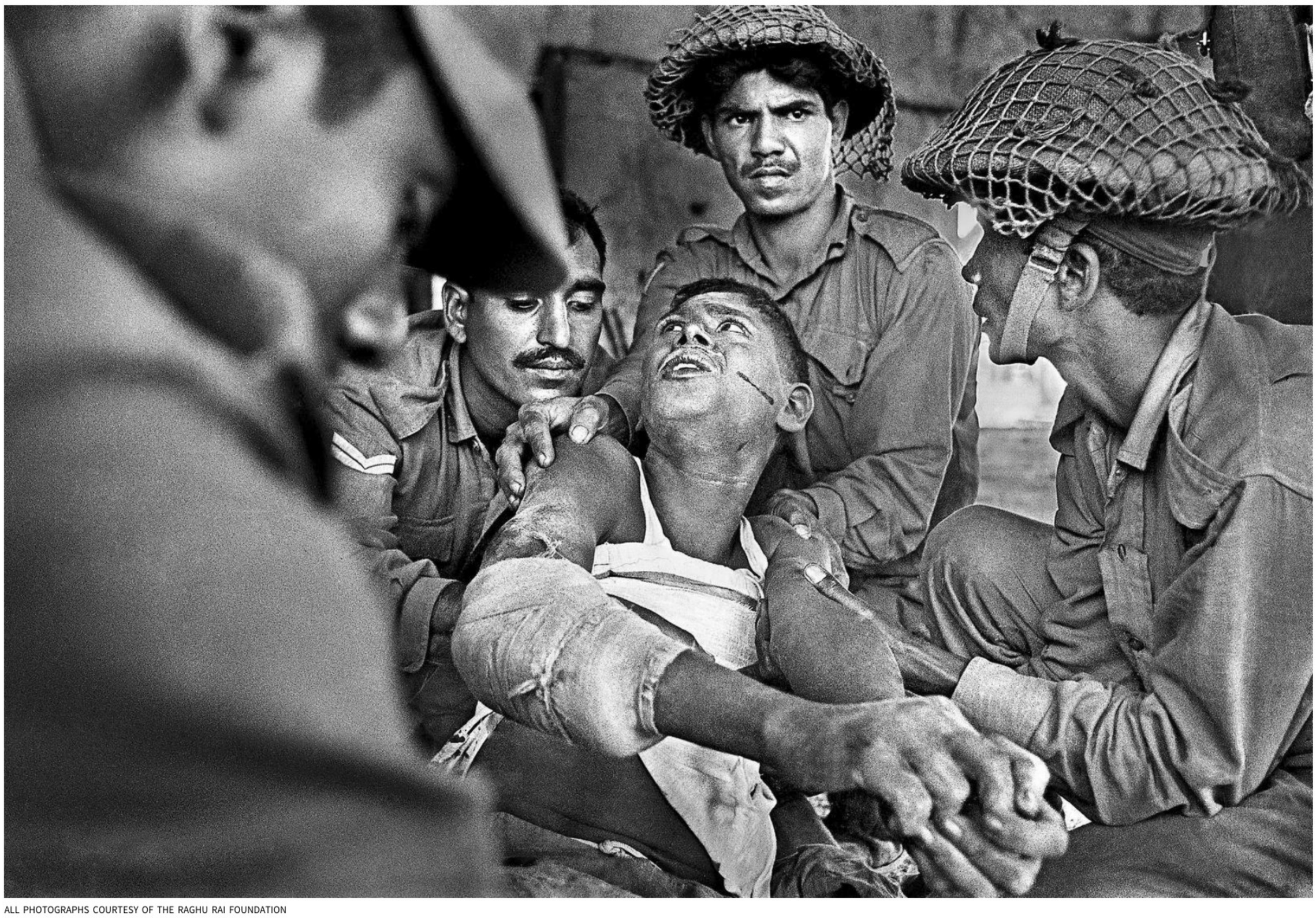
FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 9





Hustle and bustle: Traffic at Chawri Bazaar, Delhi in 1965. Horse-drawn carriages and workers manning handcarts crowd the streets.

Formidable power: Congressmen look on as Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister, reviews documents at her office in 1967.



The other side of war: A wounded soldier from the Pakistan Army found on Indian territory being taken for treatment in 1971.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE RAGHU RAI FOUNDATION

Symmetry and soul

The master chronicler didn't just document India with his lens; he taught his audience how to see it; his black-and-white statements live on, preserving the soul of a nation

RAGHU RAI (1942 - 2026)

When one speaks of India and photography, the sentence feels incomplete without taking Raghu Rai's name. His work became emblematic to the medium, not merely because he recorded India, but because he revealed it – with patience, poetry and an instinctive sense of order.

In the years that he was active, from the mid-1960s to the time of his passing, he captured on camera, an India, the way he saw it: from its leaders and labourers, musicians and mourners, to its monuments and markets. Like all great photojournalists, he captured situations as they unfolded, yet he brought to them a symmetry that was unmistakably his own. The blacks in his black-and-whites worked hard, and were not happenstance, they were statements.

There was endless patience in his eye. In Pt. S. Balachander's open fingers receiving the veena that is set off against cotton-white clouds in Mahabalipuram, in Mother Teresa's quiet piety among the diseased and deprived in Kolkata, in Indira Gandhi's stately presence with her Council of Ministers in 1967, Rai found not just faces, but destinies.

Be it the devastating Bhopal gas leak, the *sur* and *taan* of Kishori Amonkar, or the Indian soldiers tending to a wounded Pakistani counterpart unsure of his fate, Rai transcended the medium. His Taj Mahal series remains among the most luminous tributes to the monument.

A Padma Shri awardee, Raghu Rai inspired generations of photojournalists and countless others to see India anew. His masterclass ended on April 26, 2026, but his images will continue the conversation.

Blinded by gas: Victims of the Bhopal disaster in 1984. The chemical leak killed thousands and left the survivors with lifelong physical and neurological disabilities.

Civic groups oppose Tunnel Road Project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A collective of citizens, students, and civil society organisations on Saturday submitted a detailed representation to M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), opposing the Bengaluru Tunnel Road Project and demanding the project be halted immediately.

The representation raised concerns over the project's environmental impact, lack of scientific basis, huge public expenditure, and the absence of meaningful public consultation.

The representation raises concerns over the project's environmental impact and absence of meaningful public consultation

The representation argued that the proposed tunnel road was unlikely to resolve Bengaluru's traffic congestion and cited independent studies that found that mass public transport systems such as buses and metro networks can carry significantly larger numbers of commuters at a fraction of the cost.

Private vehicles

They further stated that the project prioritises private vehicles while posing serious ecological risks, including possible disruption to groundwater systems and damage to Lalbagh Botanical Garden. They also contend that the project had bypassed statutory bodies and had drawn criticism from mobility experts for allegedly running contrary to Bengaluru's Climate Action Plan and broader urban mobility objectives.

1,000 citizens

The representation was signed by over 1,000 citizens across the city. The campaign was jointly organised by All India Students' Association, Fridays For Future, and Collective.

Woman grazing cows killed following lightning strike

MYSURU: A woman grazing cows in Sathyagala village in Periyapatna taluk died after she was struck by lightning on Saturday evening.

The deceased, identified as Vinoda, wife of Chitrashekara, was struck by lightning while she was grazing cows in the field. She was admitted to a hospital, where she passed away. Two cows grazing the land belonging to Vinoda's father-in-law Chandrappachar had also died due to lightning, according to sources here in Periyapatna.

Human skull and bones found in lake; murder suspected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The fragments of human skull and skeletal remains were found in a lake near Mugaluru in the Sarjapur area on Friday, raising suspicions of murder.

According to police, locals who had gone near the lake, noticed the remains scattered along the bank and immediately alerted the authorities.

Preliminary investigation suggests that the bones and skull may have been dragged and scattered by stray animals. The police who visited the spot said the condition of the remains indicates they may have been lying there for some time.

Examination

They recovered a saree and pieces of clothing from the scene, leading officials to suspect that the remains could belong to a woman. A team from the forensic and Scene of Crime Officers unit visited the location and collected the skull and skeletal remains for examination. Senior police officials inspected the scene and gathered information from local residents. Further probe is on.

Woman loses ₹4.4 lakh through malicious APK file

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Handing over mobile phones to children for playing games proved costly for a homemaker after cyber fraudsters allegedly siphoned off ₹4.44 lakh from her bank account through a malicious APK file sent via WhatsApp.

A cyber fraud case has been registered after the victim reportedly lost ₹4,44,003 from her bank account following the download of a malicious APK file.

According to the complaint, an unknown person sent the APK file through WhatsApp to her mobile number on Fridau at 12.30 p.m. The file was allegedly downloaded when the complainant's children were using the mobile phone to play games. Later, the complainant received SMS alerts stating that ₹4,44,003 had been debited from her Bank of India account. The complainant also received WhatsApp messages about the transactions. However, attempts to contact the sender reportedly yielded no response.

Based on the written complaint, the police registered a case and launched an investigation.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 16/2026 Date : 12.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites e-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	33251483B	SPHEROELASTIC RUBBER BEARING (SILENT BLOCK)	200 Nos.	29.05.2026
2	46245001C	UNINSULATED CADMIUM COPPER CATENARY WIRE(19/2.10MM)65 SQ.MM	50500 MTRS	03.06.2026
3	47262016	500KVA (336KW), 750V, 3-PHASE DIESEL ALTERNATOR SET FOR LHB	6 Set	03.06.2026
4	40261089	Earthing Cable complete as per RCF Drg. No. LW-71245 Alt d	4978 Nos.	08.06.2026
5	60262079	Manufacture and Supply of Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plate 6.2 mm thick for 60 Kg (UIC) Rails	1159825 Nos.	08.06.2026
6	60252002C	Manufacturing and supply of 1 in 12 CMS Crossing B.G (1673 mm) for 60 E1 rail on PSC sleepers	60 Set.	15.06.2026
7	60262029	Manufacture and Supply of Metal Liner	816765 Nos.	15.06.2026
8	60268747	Manufacture and supply of 10 mm thick Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plate	473372 Nos.	15.06.2026
9	45251220B	High Capacity Inter Vehicular coupler unit, 500 Amps, 750 Volts, 3 Phase, 50 Hz	119 Set	30.06.2026
10	45261080	Brushless DC (BLDC) Railway carriage Fans, 110 V, DC Voltage range 90-140 V DC	6861 Nos.	01.07.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/120/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

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INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES (ILBS)

"CAREER OPPORTUNITIES"

Faculty & Non-Faculty posts

(ILBS/Careers/2/26)

Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) is an autonomous super-specialty Institute of excellence under GNCT of Delhi **and a Deemed-to-be-University by the GOI. Its vision is to be a global leader** by becoming a beacon of patient care, teaching and research in the field of Liver, Pancreatobiliary, Renal, Oncology and Organ Transplantation. All appointments shall be on "contract basis" and will initially be for a period of "four years" (except for Residents) and can be extended based on performance. In its search for the best talent, ILBS invites applications for the following positions including backlog:

(A) SPECIAL DRIVE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES * Backlog		
S. No	Name of Post	Number of Posts
1.	Senior Resident (Radiology-01, Hepatology -01)	2* - OH
2.	Junior Resident	2* - OH
3.	Resident Medical Officer	1* - OH
4.	Assistant Manager Nurse	1* - OH
5.	Junior Nurse	4* - OH
6.	Executive Nurse	9* - OH
7.	Jr. Executive Nurse	6* - OH
(B) APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR UR, OBC, EWS, SC & ST CATEGORY		
8.	Additional Professor (Hepatology)	2-UR,1-OBC
9.	Additional Professor (Molecular & Cellular Medicine)	1-UR
10.	Associate Professor (Hepatology)	2-UR, 1-OBC
11.	Associate Professor (Nuclear Medicine)	1-UR
12.	Associate Professor (Radiology)	2-UR, 1-OBC
13.	Associate Professor (Renal Transplant)	1-UR
14.	Associate Professor (Nephrology)	1-UR
15.	Associate Professor (Transfusion Medicine)	1-UR
16.	Assistant Professor (Radiology)	1-UR, 1-OBC
17.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Hematology)	1-UR
18.	Assistant Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR
19.	Assistant Professor (Cardiology)	1-UR
20.	Assistant Professor (Medical Biostatistics)	1-UR
21.	Assistant Professor (Hepatology)	1-UR, 1-OBC, 1-SC
22.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Research/ Epidemiology)	1-UR
23.	Assistant Professor (Nuclear Medicine)	2-UR, 1-OBC
24.	Assistant Professor (Liver Transplant Surgery)	1-UR, 1-SC
25.	Assistant Professor (Biochemistry)	1-UR
26.	Consultant Grade I,II,III,IV (Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Radiology, Renal Transplant, Clinical Hematology, Medical Biostatistics, Nuclear Medicine, Biochemistry)	12-UR, 4-OBC, 1-SC,1-ST, 1-EWS
27.	Senior Resident (Hepatology, Nephrology, Radiology, Medical Oncology, Cardiology, Pulmonary Medicine, Neurology, Renal Transplant)	8-UR, 5*-OBC, 2-SC, 1-ST, 1-EWS
28.	Resident Medical Officer	2-UR, 1-OBC
29.	Deputy Head Operations (Medical)	1-UR
30.	Assistant Head Operations (Medical)	2-UR
31.	Senior Manager (Nurse)	1-UR
32.	Manager (Purchase)	1-UR
33.	Assistant Manager (Hospitality)	1-UR
34.	Chief Technical Executive (Hepatology)	1-UR
35.	Chief Physiotherapist	1-UR
36.	Junior Nurse	2-UR, 10*-OBC, 2*-SC, 2*-ST
37.	Executive Nurse	30*-OBC, 7*-EWS, 13*-SC
38.	Executive (Security & Fire)	2-UR, 1-OBC
39.	Executive (General)	2-UR, 1-OBC
40.	Junior Executive (General)	2-UR, 1-EWS
41.	Jr. Engineer (Elect./Mechanical/ Airconditioning)	2-UR, 1-OBC
42.	Jr. Technical Executive (Pulmonary Medicine)	1-UR
43.	Junior Executive Nurse	10-UR, 15*-OBC, 6*-EWS
44.	Resident Hospital Administrator	3-UR, 3*-OBC,1*-SC

* including backlog

Last Date: 30th June, 2026. For further details, eligibility criteria and recruitment rules please visit **http://www.ilbs.in**

Head Operations (Non Medical) , ILBS

"HEALTHY LIVER – HEALTHY INDIA"

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BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BENGALURU

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 17(1) & (3) OF BDA ACT 1976

No. BDA/BBC80LAC/1/2026/BBC8, Bangalore Date: 23.04.2026

Whereas it appears to the Bangalore Development Authority, that the lands specified in the Schedule hereto are likely to be required for the public purpose i.e., for the **"formation of Peripheral Ring Road (PRR)" Between Hosur Road - Mysore Road and Tumkur Road (Part-II)** in the outskirts of Bengaluru City.

Notice to that effect is hereby given to all whom it may concern in accordance with the provisions **of Sub-Section (1) & (3) of Section 17 of Bangalore Development Authority Act 1976** (Karnataka Act No. 12 of 1976).

In accordance with Section 36 of **BDA Act, the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru,** his staff and workmen are hereby authorized to exercise the power conferred under **Section 4(2) of Land Acquisition Act 1894.**

Any persons interested in the land may prefer his/her objections within **30 days** from the date of publication of this Notification to the **Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore Development Authority, T.Chowdaiah Road, Bengaluru-560 020.**

In respect of column No.2 of this notification where Khatedars name is not mentioned, any person having interest in these lands may also prefer their objection with relevant Revenue Records to prove their title over land within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification.

All persons interested in the said lands are hereby warned not to obstruct or interfere with any Surveyor or any persons employed upon to the said lands for the purpose of said Acquisition. Any contracts for the disposal of the said lands by **Sale, Mortgage, Assignment, Exchange or otherwise or any outlay or Improvements** made there-in without sanction of the **Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition), Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru-560 020,** after the date of publication of this Notification shall under **Section 24 (Clause Seventhly) of the Land Acquisition Act 1894,** be disregarded by the Officer assessing compensation for such parts of the said lands as may be finally acquired.

The particulars of the Scheme, the **Maps** of the area comprised therein and the statement specifying the lands which is proposed to be acquired may be seen in the **Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru,** during the office hours on all working days.

SCHEDULE

Name of the District	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Hobli	Village Name	Page No.
Bengaluru Urban	Bengaluru South	Beguru	Basavanapura	1

Sl. No.	Name of the Khathedars / Anubhavadars Smts/Sriuthas	Sy. No.	Hissa	Whether/ Dry / Wet/ Garden	Total Extent A	Total Extent G	Kharabh Extent A	Kharabh Extent G	Remaining Extent A	Remaining Extent G	Assessment	Extent Proposed for Acquisition A	Extent Proposed for Acquisition G	Boundaries East	Boundaries West	Boundaries North	Boundaries South
1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8		9	10		11	12	13	14
	Village: Basavanapura			Hobli: Begur										Taluk: Bengaluru South			
1	Rashmidevi W/o Sajjanrao	9	3	Dry	4	30	0	21	4	9	9.90	3	2	Road	8/4, 7	9/2	9/3 Part

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC O&M Division-8, Zalaki- 586204. Tq:Indi, Dist:Vijayapur. Email:eezalaki1@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/IBCDn-8/ZALAKI/DB/Tender-1/ERM SURVEY-NON SR/QTN/2026-27/77 Dated: 14.05.2026

INFORMATION QUOTATION THROUGH KPPP PORTAL FOR PREPARATION OF ESTIMATION ONLY

Information quotations regarding rates are invited for works under **Consultancy Services for preparation of PFR and other allied works for approval from CWC for the work of "Remodelling of IBC from Ch. 64.00 km to 172.00 Km Distributaries, Laterals and Sub-Laterals Including Structures there under,** FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 as per the standard norms of KBJNL by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL Bangalore from the registered consultant agencies/Contractors, Last date to receive information quotation is **26.05.2026 @ 4.30 PM,** Details of salient features can be obtained from this office.

(The blank Quotations can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box).

Name of Work : **Consultancy Services for preparation of PFR and other allied works for approval from CWC for the work of "Remodelling of IBC from Ch. 64.00 km to 172.00 Km Distributaries, Laterals and Sub-Laterals Including Structures there under.**[KBJNL/2026-27/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_22]

Work consists of the following items.

Sl.No	Description of Items	Unit	Quantity	Rate (Excluding of GST)
1	Preparation of Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) for IBC Ch: 64.00 to 172.00 Km as per the standard guidelines of CWC year 2017 and uploading the same in e-PAMS portal of CWC & Liaisoning with various Directorates viz,. for approval of PFR including attending meetings, Preparation of presentation and technical clarification to CWC offices etc., complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge.	Job	1	
2	**STAGE-1**: Preparation of 10-daily computations of Crop Water Requirement (CWR) by estimating Reference Evapotranspiration (ETo) using recent 30 years climatological data influencing the command area & compiling the total water demand separately for Irrigation, domestic, industrial and power generation for following projects executed under Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage I including submission to CWC, New Delhi and providing technical clarification if any sought by CWC offices etc., complete as directed Engineer-in-Charge			
	Narayanapura Left Bank Canal (NLBC) - 47,223 Ha	Job	1	
	Shahpura Branch Canal (SBC) - 1,22,120 Ha	Job	1	
	Mudbal Branch Canal (MBC) - 51,000 Ha	Job	1	
	Jewargi Branch Canal (JBC) - 57,100 Ha	Job	1	
	Indi Branch Canal (IBC) - 1,31,260 Ha	Job	1	
	Almatti Left Bank Canal (ALBC) - 20,235 Ha	Job	1	
3	**STAGE-2:** Preparation of 10-daily computations of Crop Water Requirement (CWR) by estimating Reference Evapotranspiration (ETo) using recent 30 years climatological data influencing the command area & compiling the total water demand separately for Irrigation, domestic, industrial and power generation for following projects executed under Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage II including submission to CWC, New Delhi and providing technical clarification if any sought by CWC offices etc., complete as directed Engineer-in-Charge			
	Narayanapura Right Bank Canal (NRBC) - 84,000 Ha	Job	1	
	Almatti Right Bank Canal (ARBC) - 16,100 Ha	Job	1	
	Mulwad LIS (MLIS) - 30,850 Ha	Job	1	
	Rampur LIS (RLIS) - 20235 Ha	Job	1	
	Indi LIS (ILIS) - 41,900 Ha	Job	1	
	Narayanapura Right Bank Canal (NRBC) - 84,000 Ha	Job	1	
4	Prepartion of 10-daily Working Table for Almatti and Narayanapura Reservoirs considering the recent 30 years inflow,outflow & utilization data and assess the Combined Reservoir Performance & submission to CWC, New Delhi and providing technical clarification if any sought by CWC offices etc., complete as directed Engineer-in-Charge, complete as directed Engineer-in-Charge.	Job	1	

NOTE : 1] ಇ-ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಐಟಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋಟೇಶನ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 26.05.2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. 2] ಭರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.05.2026 ರಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 3] ಕೋಟೇಶನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ. ಇಂಶಾಕಾ, ನಿಮಮೋ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ:8, ಝಳಕಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.05.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವದು. 4] ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ. ಇಂಶಾಕಾ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ: 8, ಝಳಕಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. 5] The Concerned agencies/firms should visit the site of Remodelling of IBC from Ch.64.00 km to 172.00 Km Distributaries, Laterals and Sub-Laterals Including Structures there under and preparation of PFR and other allied works for approval from CWC Hence,obtain the Technical Data from undersigned. The rates shall be quoted for Individual items. 6] Goods and Service Tax (GST) is excluded in the above amount and shall be payable as applicable. 7] All rights are reserved by the undersigned to accept or Reject the quotations.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC O&M Division-8, Zalaki. Tq: Indi, Dist: Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/99/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-NOTICE OF INVITATION TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager, N.W. Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following works on the date shown as below: **Tender No.:** S&T-BKN-2026-27-04, **Name of Work with its Location:** "Provision of Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm System (AFDAS) at Independent Interlocked LC gates over Bikaner Division", **Approx. Cost of Work:** 38900448.70, **Bid Security Amount (in Rs.):** 778000.00, **Date & Time for submission of Tender & opening of tender:** Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 11.06.2026, **Website from Which complete Tender details can be seen & download:** www.ireps.gov.in **732-PH/26**

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

BIKANER DIVISION

E-NOTICE OF INVITATION TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager, N.W. Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following works on the date shown as below: **Tender No.:** S&T-BKN-25-26 -41-R, **Name of Work with its Location:** "Telecom work in c/w augmentation of facilities at LAHLI, BNWC, KNL, BHT, BWC Goods Shed of Bikaner Division", **Approx. Cost of Work:** 18457384.95, **Bid Security Amount (in Rs.):** 369200.00, **Date & Time for submission of Tender & opening of tender:** Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 05.06.2026, **Website from Which complete Tender details can be seen & download:** www.ireps.gov.in **727-PH/26**

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/17

Dated: 08-05-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Provision of Roof Top Solar plants in major colonies over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 1,35,05,862/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 29-05-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer General / Mysuru

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I am issuing this public notice under the instructions of my client **Dr.T.V.RAJASHEKHAR also known as Dr.TURUVEKERE VEERAPPA RAJSEKHAR,** S/o Late T.N.Veerappa, AADHAR NO.XXXX XXXX 3634, that he is the absolute owner of the Property bearing No.301/C, New Khatha No.5 (Old No.301/C), PID No.60-122-5, BBMP EPID No.2205079716, Situated at 35th Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Measuring : East to West 50 feet and North to South 75 feet and bounded on the :- East by : Site No.301/B, West by : Site No.300/B, North by : Site Nos.301/1 and 301/2 and South by : 35th Cross Road.

It is hereby informing to the general public that, my client lost/misplaced the following original documents with respect to the said property, while travelling to Advocate office from Jayanagar to B.T.M.Layout, he lost plastic folder containing following Original documents and presume this was lost somewhere on Jayanagar 5th Block. The original documents which is as follows:-

a) Original Absolute Sale Deed, dated: 07/09/1981, executed by Bangalore Development Authority in favour of Sri.Wg.Cdr.A.J.Srinivasan, which is registered as Document No.2720/1981-82, of Book – I, Volume – 630, Pages: 41 to 43, registered in the office of the Subregistrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

b) Original Sale Deed, dated: 29/04/1985, executed by Sri.Wg.Cdr.A.J.Srinivasan, Represented by his GPA Holder:- Sri.A.J.Ravikumar in favour of Dr.T.V.Rajashekhar, Represented by his GPA Holder:- Sri.R.Srikantan, which is registered as Document No.302//1985-86, of Book – I, Volume – 945, Pages: 189 to 195, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

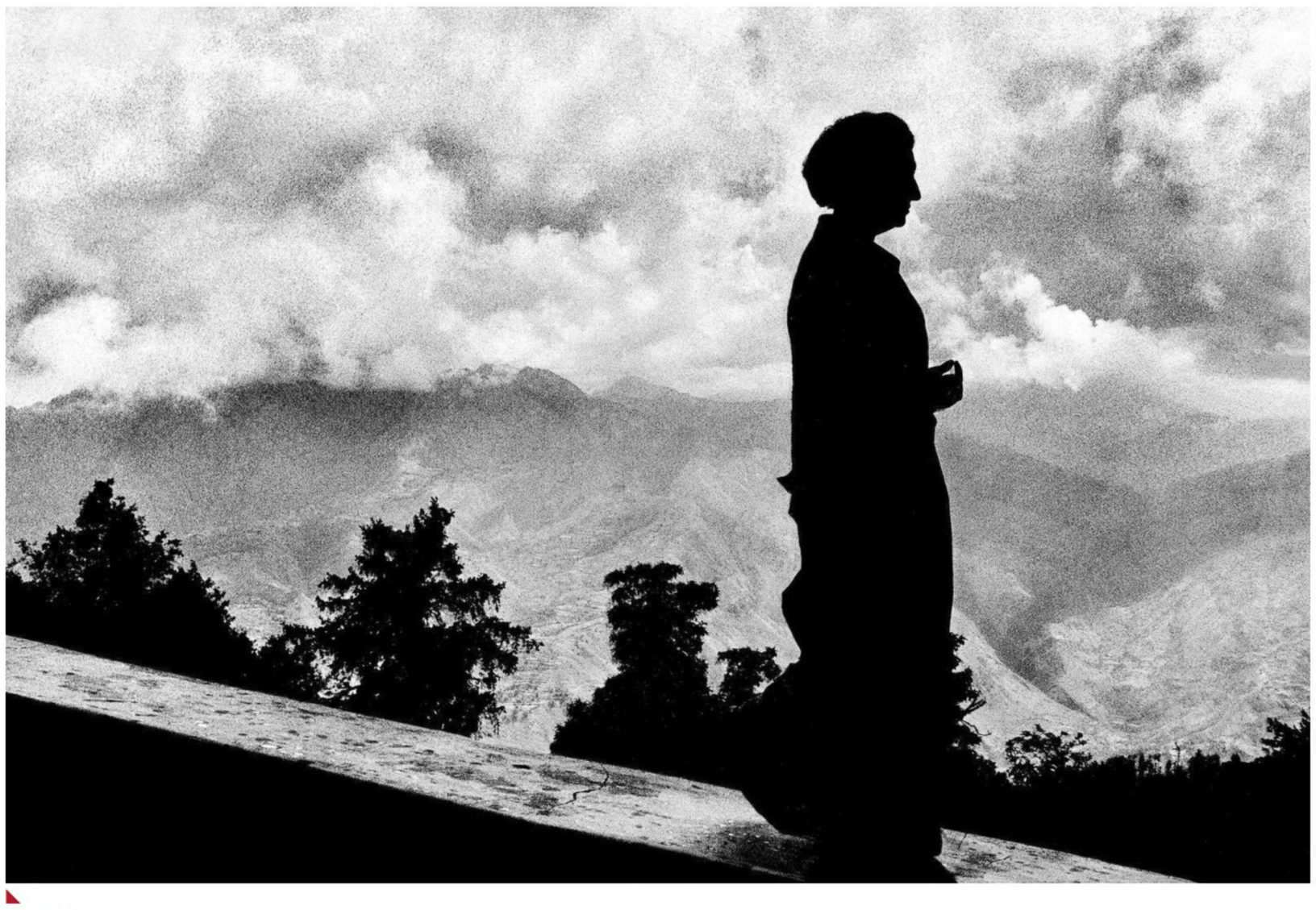
c) Original Power of Attorney, dated: 16/08/1984, executed by Sri.A.J.Srinivasan in favour of Sri.A.J.Ravikumar, which is registered as Document No.130/84-85, of Book – IV, Volume – 49, Pages: 93 to 94, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

d) Original Sanction plan, dated: 07/03/2009, bearing No.Adl/Com/S/LP.490/08-09, issued by the Asst. Director of Town Planning (South), Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, for the construction of Residential + Commercial building, comprising of Basement, Ground and First floors.

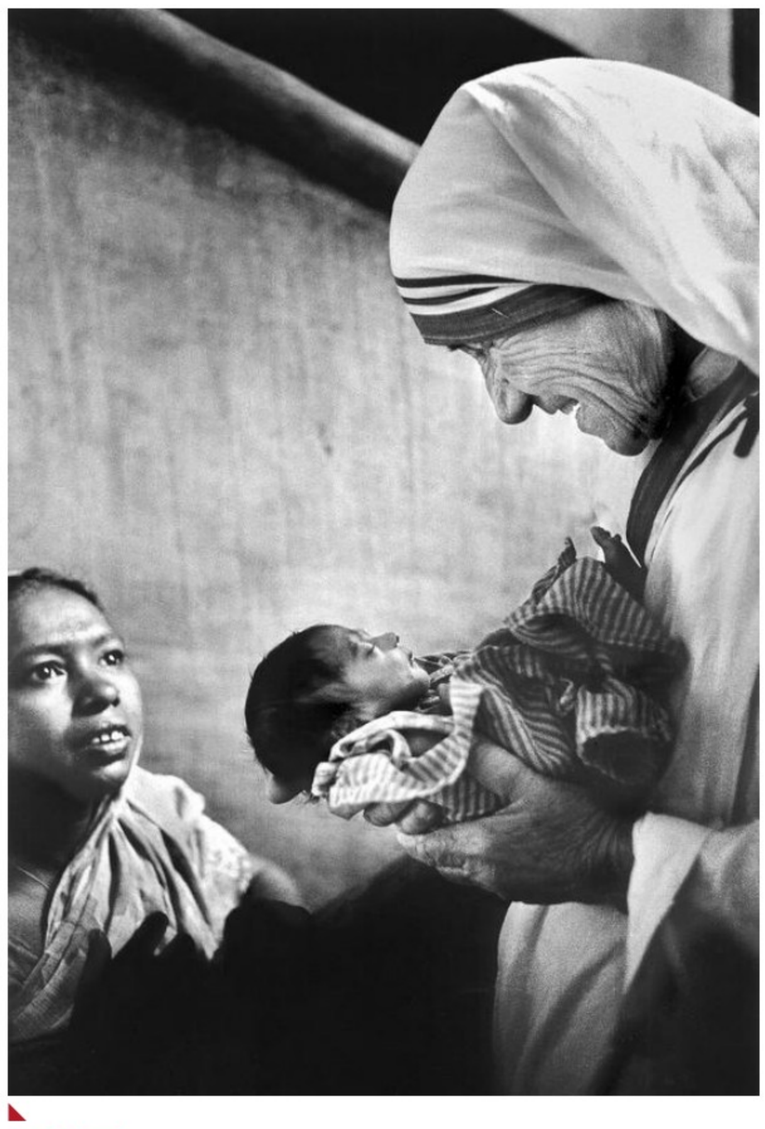
My client Dr.T.V.RAJASHEKHAR also known as Dr.TURUVEKERE VEERAPPA RAJSEKHAR undertaking that he has not pledged the said original documents and not availed any loan/financial/credit facilities from any person/financial institution/Banks. For future perfection, clarification and to safeguard the legal rights of my client Dr.T.V.RAJASHEKHAR also known as Dr.TURUVEKERE VEERAPPA RAJSEKHAR, I am issuing this public notice.

In this regard my client has lodged police complaint vide Lost Article Report No.2206384/2026, dated: 14/05/2026, before the jurisdictional Police. Further hereby informing that the said documents are not traceable. If any body found the said document, the same may be handed over at the below mentioned address.

Mrs.M.Manjula, Advocate
No.C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G.Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob : 9945027091.

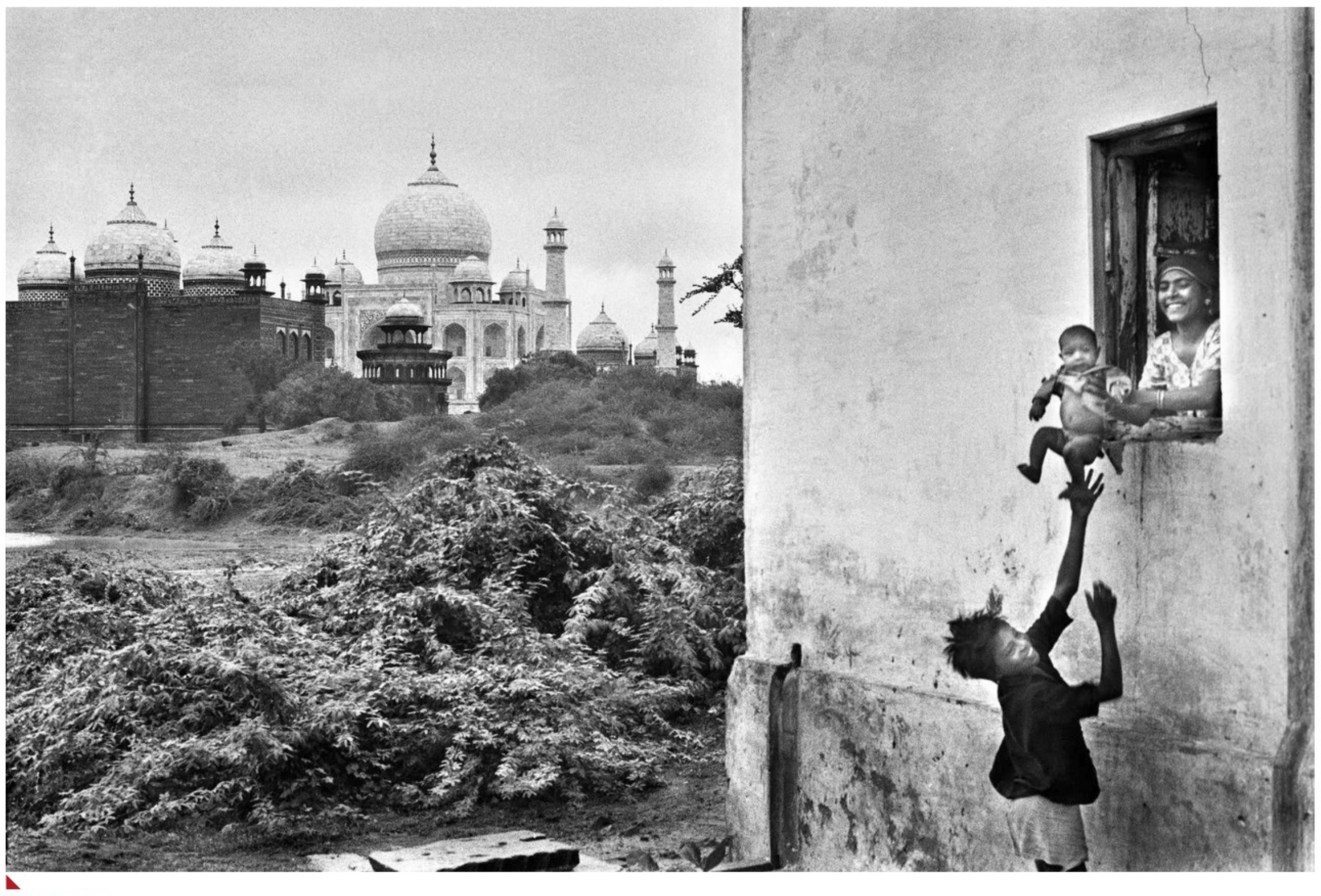


At her peak: Indira Gandhi photographed against the Himalayas in 1972.



Tender bond: Mother Teresa holds a child in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) in 1979.

Reverent embrace: Veena maestro S. Balachander unites with his instrument in the historic town of Mahabalipuram in 1988.



Fresh angle: A view of the Taj Mahal, 1977. Rai's photo series is considered one of the greatest tributes to the monument.

Classical tunes: Vocalist Kishori Amonkar during a concert in Mumbai in 1988.

BMRCL to electrify rails in underground section

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has issued a public notification warning citizens against unauthorised entry into underground metro sections as 33kV cables and the 750V DC third rail in the Reach-6 underground corridor will be energised from May 18.

The electrification process will be carried out progressively between Langford Town and Pottery Town. The underground stretch includes traction substations and auxiliary substations at Langford Town, Rashtriya Military School, M.G. Road, Shivajinagar, Cantonment Railway Station and Pottery Town. The BMRCL cautioned that direct contact with the live 750V DC third rail or 33kV cables could prove fatal. The public has been strictly advised not to enter any underground metro section in the affected areas without authorisation.

Police rescue 27 buffaloes; four held on charges of illegal transport

MANGALURU: The Kankanady Town Police on Saturday rescued 27 buffaloes that were allegedly being illegally transported from Haveri district to Talipparamba in Kannur district of neighbouring State Kerala and have arrested four persons.

Personnel on highway patrol and morning patrol intercepted a truck carrying the animals in Jeppinamogaru at around 6 a.m. and found the buffaloes being transported in a cruel manner. The police gave the names of the accused as Syed Mehaboob Ali, 28, Sunil Lakshmappa Javali, 24, Arun Chandrappa Javali, 46, and Hiriyanna Gowda, 46.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 17		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	05:58	SET 19:23
MONDAY, MAY. 18		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	07:01	SET 20:31
TUESDAY, MAY. 19		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:39
RISE	08:07	SET 21:37

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	31	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Private bus catches fire near Hassan, none hurt

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A private bus travelling from Mangaluru to Bengaluru caught fire near Shantigrama in Hassan taluk in the early hours of Saturday, gutting more than 70% of the vehicle. All 36 passengers on board escaped unhurt, though many lost their belongings in the blaze.

The driver noticed the flames around 2.50 a.m. and promptly pulled over, ensuring all passengers disembarked safely before the fire spread and engulfed the bus. Local residents alerted the police and Fire and Emergency Services.

Two fire tenders were rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control.

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‘Nanna e-Khata, Nanna Hakku’ open houses draw decent crowd

The total applications for both e-Khata and khata conversion stood at 1,505 on Saturday, according to GBA data

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first-of-its-kind initiative, ‘Nanna e-Khata, Nanna Hakku’, launched by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to deliver khata-related services at 52 open houses across the city, received a decent response on its first outing. Such open houses will henceforth be held every Saturday.

The total applications for both e-Khata and khata conversion stood at 1,505 on Saturday, according to GBA data. This response came in the backdrop of extensive publicity. While the primary focus was on B-Khata to A-Khata conversion and issuance of e-Khata, many citizens visited the centres seeking khata corrections, mutations, and new khatas as well.

Jayashree Pradeep, a senior citizen and resident of Koramangala 4th Block, who visited the centre in Adugodi, said she obtained the e-Khata for one of the three properties she owns. “I had been running from one office to another multiple times over the past year. I had even attended an e-Khata mela held last year. But I couldn’t get the khata because every time, the officers directed me to another official,” she said.

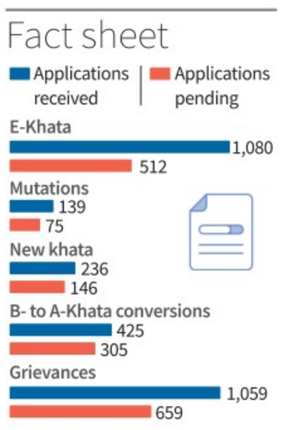
Another visitor, a resident of Venkatapura in Jakkasandra who did not wish to be named, told *The Hindu* that many residents of Jakkasandra had not received their e-Khata because their property’s ePID number was missing from the records. “This happened because record book numbers 6 and 7 were either not scanned properly or were missing. They have now rectified the issue using the 2024 SAS records,” he said. “Now, many residents in my neighbourhood will be able to get their e-Khata without any issue,” he added.

According to officials at the centre, they were prepared with all records and had rectified issues that had surfaced in the past before launching the initiative. The officers said they received more requests for e-Khata-related services, while applications for B to A-Khata conversion were negligible.

Bhagya, a resident of Shanthinagar, said, “Usually, civic body officials are unresponsive and unapproachable. Today, they did not make us run around to different officials or give unnecessary reasons. They addressed our issues,” she said.

However, some issues persisted. Citizens who had earlier registered for B to A-Khata conversion, when the conversion cost was 5% of the guidance value, were also supposed to receive a 60% discount, bringing the fee down to 2% of the guidance value of the area where the plot is located. An order issued on May 15 stated that even those who had applied earlier would be eligible for the concession. However, the same was not reflected in the software, and for many applicants, the conversion cost still appeared as 5%.

Property owners applying for e-Khata during ‘Nanna e-Khata, Nanna Hakku’ campaign at BBMP Girls PU college on Dispensary Road in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.



> As the sixth guarantee, we are offering Bhu Guarantee. If the site you purchased earlier was at a lower price, the khata conversion will increase the value of the property
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

No bribes, please

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who visited one of the centres on Saturday, said the initiative ensures that citizens receive khata services without paying any bribe.

“The public should not pay even a single rupee as a bribe to anyone. No bribes should be given to officials or members of any political party. As the sixth guarantee, we are offering Bhu Guarantee. If the site you purchased earlier was at a lower price, the khata conversion will increase the value of the property,” he stated, urging citizens to make use of the opportunity.

Prank leads to tragedy as man is stabbed to death by friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

What began as a prank over a hidden mobile phone ended in tragedy after a housekeeping worker allegedly stabbed his friend to death during a quarrel in Marathahalli. The police have arrested the accused, identified as Ramu Basappa Pattad, 35, a resident of Dharwad.

According to the complaint filed by the victim’s brother Gangappa Mangalagatti, the deceased, Parashuram Mangalagatti, was staying in a rented house near the Bescom office in Marathahalli along with friends Hanumanth Doddamani and the accused. All worked as housekeeping staff at KIMS Hospital in Mahadevapura.

The police said that on the morning of May 9 at around 8.30 a.m., Pattad allegedly hid Parashuram’s mobile phone as a prank and refused to return it despite repeated requests.

The playful argument soon escalated into a serious fight. The accused allegedly went to the kitchen, picked up a knife and stabbed Mangalagatti in the abdomen before fleeing.

The injured man was being treated at a private hospital, but succumbed to injuries at around 12.30 p.m. on May 11.

Investigators said the accused initially believed that he had caused only a minor injury and allegedly told police during interrogation that he did not realise the victim had died. He reportedly returned to the rented room two days later expecting his friend to come back looking for the phone, only to find the house locked.

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5.	PDCC in Consultation Liaison Psychiatry (with Focus on Transplant and Addiction Psychiatry)	01+01*
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BENGALURU

You can henceforth book an appointment with civic authorities in Bengaluru to pick up your bulky waste like old furniture, sofas, mattresses, cupboards, from your door step. This service will be free as well.

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), responsible for Solid Waste Management in the city, has launched a new mobile app “DClutter”, available on both Google Play Store and Apple App Store, through which you can book for such a visit by waste collectors.

“Bulky waste such as old furniture, sofas, mattresses, cupboards, discarded clothes, broken sanitary fittings, old commodes, footwear, and other large household waste items are often not being collected through the regular waste collection system. As a result, such waste is frequently dumped along roadsides and public spaces, creating environmental concerns and affecting the cleanliness and aesthetics of the city,” Karee Gowda, CEO, BSWML, said in a statement on Saturday.

An exercise of collecting and disposing of such waste dumped by the street sides across the city, led to disposal of over 6000 tonnes of such waste, indicating the enormity of the gap in the system.

To address this, the BSWML has come out with the DClutter platform, through which citizens can conveniently request the collection of bulky waste directly from their premises. The bulky waste collection will be collected once a week, depending on the quantity and nature of the waste generated, the BSWML said.

“The collected waste will be scientifically processed through authorised recyclers wherever feasible, while the remaining non-recyclable material will be transported to Waste-to-Energy plants for further processing and disposal,” the BSWML said.

> Waste is frequently dumped along roadsides and public spaces, creating environmental concerns and affecting the cleanliness and aesthetics of the city
> **KAREE GOWDA**
> Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited CEO

How does it work

- Download the application from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store
- Register by entering the basic details
- Select the items to be disposed of
- Schedule a pick-up time
- BSWML team will visit your doorstep and collect the items

NLSIU V-C responds following students’ protest over hostel and water issues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a sustained protest from the students, Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, has responded to students’ grievances, promising infrastructural, administrative and vendor changes to deliver higher standards of service more consistently in the days ahead.

In an email sent to students after the meeting held on Thursday, the Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that 18 separate issues had been raised.

Accommodation issues

Addressing the growing concern over hostel accommodation, the administration said the university’s residential capacity had expanded significantly, from approximately 530 students in 2020 to 1,693 students in 2026.

The email stated that the addition of bunk beds in hostel rooms was based on room size and resource allocation rather than gender considerations.

The administration announced that hostel allocations for the 2026-27 academic year would be revisited as the students flagged the disproportionate gender impact.

“On Wednesday, we paused the process of hostel room allocation, and we will explore reassigning hostels and securing new student residences outside campus. Students are invited to share their feedback with the Dean of Students over the next week,” the email further stated.

Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India University

The email also sought to reassure students about complaints regarding water shortages.

According to the administration, additional maintenance staff have been deployed round-the-clock, inspections of water storage facilities have increased, and backup systems have been strengthened to address disruptions caused by power outages.

Security concerns around hostel boundary walls were also addressed in the email by the Vice-Chancellor, who noted that the CCTV cameras, increased patrolling, additional barbed wire, and vision-blocking sheets near the Yamuna Hostel were among the measures being implemented following earlier student complaints.

The administration promised “prompt and meaningful action” in the coming days, including infrastructural improvements and administrative reforms.

It also pledged greater transparency and ongoing communication with students as the university attempts to defuse tensions on campus.

Suspended activities

In another email sent on Saturday, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted incidents that occurred between Tuesday and Friday during the protest by the students.

The incidents were termed to have generated serious concerns about safety and security on campus and possible external interference.

The email noted activists of an external organisation, facilitated by some members of the student body, entering the campus on Friday; instances of disruption of workshops inside the campus by sloganeering; and involvement of police, among other things.

“These incidents, taken together, have created a situation in which the safety and orderly conduct of collective events can no longer be assured. We can all agree that the safety and security of the university community and the prevention of external interference and disruption by external actors are shared concerns at this moment,” the Vice-Chancellor further added in the email.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that in order to maintain safety and security and a conducive environment for all members of the university community, all other activities on campus are temporarily on hold until further notice. This position will be reviewed at the end of next week. However, the email did not specify what activities will be on hold.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Kempanahalli Main Road, Atturu Layout, Atturu Forest Nursery, Bengaluru - 560064.

No: ACF/BNCC/TENDER/07/2026-27 **Date: 16-05-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BNCC or equivalent registration CPWD / KPWD / Forest / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Bengaluru North City Corporation Zone-1, Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0089**
2	Bengaluru North City Corporation Zone-1, Pulikeshinagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0090**
3	Bengaluru North City Corporation Zone-1, Sarvagnanagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0091**
4	Bengaluru North City Corporation Zone-1 Tree Canopy Management One Night Team for (Byatarayanapura, Pulikeshinagara and Sarvagnanagara Assembly Constituency). **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0092**
5	Bengaluru North City Corporation Tree Canopy Management Rapid response Team-1 Zone-1 (Byatarayanapura, Pulikeshinagara and Sarvagnanagara Assembly Constituency) During 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0093**
6	Bengaluru North City Corporation Tree Canopy Management Rapid response Team-2 Zone-1 (Byatarayanapura, Pulikeshinagara and Sarvagnanagara Assembly Constituency) During 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0094**
7	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 20 T Capacity (The Rates include Crew Charges, Operational & Maintenance Charges such as Cost of Fuel, Lubricants, Stores, Establishments and Depreciation & Interest Charges on Hypothecation) for Supporting Tree Canopy Management Zone-1 During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0095**
8	Bengaluru North City Corporation Zone-2, Yelahanka Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0096**
9	Bengaluru North City Corporation Zone-2, Hebbala Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0097**
10	Bengaluru North City Corporation Zone-2 Dasarahalli Assembly Constituency and Part of Rajarajeshwarinagara Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0098**
11	Bengaluru North City Corporation Tree Canopy Management One Night Team for Zone-2 (Yelahanka, Hebbala, Dasarahalli Assembly Constituency) during 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 80,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0099**
12	Bengaluru North City Corporation Rapid Response Team-1 Zone-2 (Yelahanka, Hebbala, Dasarahalli Assembly Constituency) during 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0100**
13	Bengaluru North City Corporation Rapid Response Team-2 Zone-2 (Yelahanka, Hebbala, Dasarahalli Assembly Constituency) during 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0101**
14	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 20 T Capacity (The Rates include Crew Charges, Operational & Maintenance Charges such as Cost of Fuel, Lubricants, Stores, Establishments and Depreciation and Interest Charges on Hypothecation) for Supporting Tree Canopy Management Zone-2 During the year 2026-27. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00, Indent No: BNCC/2026-27/SE0102**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 16-05-2026, 4.00 PM onwards. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in KPP Portal is **21-05-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting on **21-05-2026 at 4.30 PM in the Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BNCC, Kempanahalli Main Road, Atturu Layout, Atturu Forest Nursery, Bengaluru - 560064. 4)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of Tender in KPP Portal is **27-05-2026 upto 5.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Document is **29-05-2026 at 11.00 AM. 6)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BNCC, Kempanahalli Main Road, Atturu Layout, Atturu Forest Nursery, Bengaluru - 560064, E-mail: acfbncc@gmail.com.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Bengaluru North City Corporation.

Bidadi township: Deve Gowda announces agitation against project; DKS hits back

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda during a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Saturday announced that he would launch a struggle against the proposed township project in Bidadi, alleging that fertile agricultural land was being targeted in the name of urban development.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Gowda accused the government of facilitating a "land business" under the guise of a township project and said farmers in the region were living in fear and uncertainty.

"My fight for the farmers of Bidadi begins from today," he said, asserting that there was strong opposition to the project among local residents.

Drawing comparisons with the satellite township proposals initiated during the tenure of H.D. Kumaraswamy as Chief Minister, Mr. Gowda said those projects had been withdrawn after public opposition and criticism from Congress leaders.

"At that time, campaigns were launched alleging land grabbing and inquiries were ordered. Now, the very people who opposed those projects are attempting something far more dangerous," he alleged. He urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to intervene and review the project.

The former Prime Minister said he had already written to the Chief Minister seeking an inquiry into land ownership patterns around Bengaluru and questioning in whose names nearly 20,000 acres of land were held. The remarks drew a sharp response from Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who alleged that it was the Kumaraswamy family that had amassed wealth through real estate dealings.

Mr. Shivakumar said those now opposing the Bidadi township project were themselves responsible for initiating similar projects earlier.

"Yesterday they said the Bidadi township should not be implemented. But who issued the notification for it in the first place? It was them," he said.

Referring to land transactions linked to the Peripheral Ring Road corridor, Mr. Shivakumar alleged that members of the Kumaraswamy family had benefited from real estate activity in the area.

"Those who made money through real estate are from Kumaraswamy's family. His elder brother acquired properties in the PRR area by intimidating people," he alleged.

He further claimed that lands in areas such as Doddagubbi and Chikkagubbi, purchased years ago at low prices, were now worth several crores. "People there will tell you how lands registered for ₹7 lakh or ₹10 lakh are today worth ₹25 crore to ₹50 crore," Mr. Shivakumar added.

Man arrested for murdering woman, dumping body in Tirupalya Lake

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man from Assam was arrested for allegedly murdering a 47-year-old woman and dumping her body in Tirupalya Lake in Anekal taluk.

According to police, a case of unnatural death was registered at the Hebbagodi Police Station on May 9 after the woman's body was found floating in the lake under suspicious circumstances.

During the investigation, the postmortem report and doctors' opinion confirmed that the woman had been murdered by strangulation and suffocation.

Based on the findings, the police registered a *suo motu* murder case against unidentified persons and intensified the probe. Using circumstantial and technical evidence, the police traced and detained Ratan Das from Assam on May 14 from his residence in Tirupalya in Anekal taluk.

Close association

The investigators found that the accused was closely associated with the victim. During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed that he was in an illicit relationship with the woman and that frequent pressure from her to marry had led to disputes between them.

The police said he strangled and suffocated the woman before disposing of the body in thick grass located in the middle of the lake.

The accused was produced before a court on May 15 and was remanded in judicial custody.

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GBA polls: SC to hear appeals on May 20 to extend deadline

The State and GBA seek time citing 'paucity of human resources' to hold the polls, as the timeline clashes with National Census and SIR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The fate of civic polls in Bengaluru will likely be decided on May 20, as the Supreme Court is all set to hear a batch of Interlocutory Applications (IAs) filed by the State and Karnataka State Election Commission (KSEC), seeking an extension of deadline to hold polls in the city till September 30.

The Supreme Court in its order on January 12 set a deadline of June 30 to hold the much delayed civic polls and posted the case for July 20. The polls have been due since September, 2020.

However, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the State government have sought three more months' time to hold the polls citing paucity of human resources to hold elections, as the timeline clashes with National Census and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State.

The State government and the KSEC, which said they have taken proactive steps to hold the polls within the June 30 deadline, but finds the State's appeal to extend the deadline *"bona fide"*, have filed separate the IAs seeking extension of the deadline.

'Urgent listing'

Sanchit Garga, advocate for the State, wrote to The Registrar, Supreme Court of India on May 13, requesting for "urgent listing" of the IA filed by the State. "Since the judicial mandated deadline to conclude the elections expires on June 30, waiting until the scheduled hearing date of July 20 would render the State in non-compliance of this Hon'ble Court's direction due to insurmountable logistical constraints," he argued.

The Daily Cause List of the Supreme Court of India for May 20, lists the two IAs as item number 31 for the day.

Kempegowda International Airport crosses 400 million passenger milestone since AOD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The airport also registered a strong growth in the financial year 2025-26, driven by international traffic, even amidst the West Asia crisis this year. FILE PHOTO

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru, in April this year crossed the 400 million passenger milestone since its Airport Opening Day (AOD).

The airport also registered a strong growth in the financial year 2025-26, driven by international traffic, even amidst the West Asia crisis this year. The KIA handled 44.47 million passengers and 5,32,000 tonnes of cargo in the 2025-26 financial year.

International traffic drives growth

Surprisingly, in a year marred by multiple "geopolitical headwinds" the growth at the KIA was driven by international passengers. International traffic increased by 23.9% to 7.23 million passengers, while domestic traffic grew by 3.3% to 37.24 million passengers, taking the overall passenger traffic up by 6.2% year-on-year. "This sustained growth despite geopolitical headwinds reflects Bengaluru's increasing global relevance as a business and innovation hub," the KIA said in a statement on Saturday.

The airport offers global connectivity with non-stop flights to over 78 domestic and 34 international destinations. The KIA said that operational performance also scaled up at the airport in line with the growth in traffic during the financial year 2025-26. While the airport recorded a total of 2,80,800 air traffic movements, a 4.5%year-on-year increase, average daily movements stood at 769, with a peak of 837 movements in a single day.

The passenger traffic also reached a record high, with 1,39,111 passengers handled in a single day in the financial year 2025-26, the KIA said.

Cargo growth

Cargo business maintained a "steady" growth of 6% year-on-year handling a total of 5,32,000 tonnes in 2025-26, the KIA said. "Perishables continued to anchor this growth, with the KIA retaining its position as India's leading gateway for perishable exports for the fifth consecutive year. The airport handled around 60 million rose stems during the year, with volumes up 38% and tonnage rising 64%, compared to last year. Mango exports grew 12% to a five-year high, while coriander volumes increased 13% year-on-year," the KIA said in a statement.

"Demand was further driven by a mix of pharma, autoparts, spare parts, electric and electronics goods and e-commerce," it added. The airport runs 15 cargo airlines operating across 38 destinations connecting Bengaluru to key global hubs including Chicago, Singapore, London, Frankfurt, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

"As demand continues to evolve, the airport will focus on deepening global linkages, expanding capacity, and building a future-ready ecosystem," the statement noted.

Rowdy sheeter, associate held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested a rowdy sheeter and his associate for allegedly consuming alcohol while riding a motorcycle and creating public nuisance near Seegahalli Gate in the limits of the Madanayakanahalli Police Station on Friday night.

According to the police, the duo identified as Harish, 32, and Nitesh, 27, was travelling from Tavarekere towards Bengaluru on a two-wheeler on Friday night when Harish, riding pillion, was allegedly drinking liquor from a bottle while the bike was in motion. The accused were also shouting loudly and behaving indecently in public, causing fear and inconvenience to passers-by.

Apprehended

Police personnel attached to the Organised Crime Squad, who were on patrol duty in the area, intercepted and apprehended both the accused along with the motorcycle.

Schools part of *The Hindu*'s NiE programme do well in CBSE class 12 examination

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Schools like JSS Public School, HSR Layout, National Public School, Rajajinagar, among others have posted strong performances in the recently announced CBSE class 12 examination results. FILE PHOTO

Schools that are part of *The Hindu*'s Newspaper in Education (NiE) programme have posted strong performances in the recently announced CBSE class 12 examination results.

National Public School, Rajajinagar: A total of 68 students appeared for the examination, of whom 50 secured distinction. Students also recorded two centums. Shankara Panch emerged as the topper with 96.4%, followed by Vrishank Ravichandran with 96% and Athreya Sharad Deshpande with 95.2%. In the Commerce stream, 19 students appeared for the examination, with 14 securing distinction. Saqeeb Chand emerged as the topper with 92.2%, followed by Shreeyans Sridhara with 92% and Nitin J. with 91.8%.

JSS Public School, HSR Layout: A total of 49 students appeared. Of the total, 12 students secured distinction, while 34 passed with first class. In the Science stream, Abhinav P. Marali and Pratheeksha Pratihari emerged as joint toppers with 94.8% each. Dhruv Agarwal topped the Commerce stream with 86%.

Presidency School, Bengaluru South: In the CBSE class 12 Science stream, a total of 59 students appeared for the examination, of whom 48 secured distinction and 10 passed with first class. The school recorded one centum in Mathematics and two centums in Physics. Johann Job emerged as the topper with 98.4% and also secured a centum in Physics. In the Commerce stream, 25 students appeared for the examination, with 21 securing distinction and three passing with first class. Achyutha Bhaskar emerged as the topper with 96.2%.

Presidency School, Bangalore East: In the CBSE class 12 Science stream, a total of 80 students appeared for the examination, of whom 45 secured distinction and 35 passed with first class. The school recorded three centums each in Mathematics, Chemistry and Computer Science. Joel Jerry Alappat emerged as the Science stream topper with 98.8%. In the Commerce stream, 35 students appeared for the examination, with 10 securing distinction and 25 passing with first class. Sharanya K. R. emerged as the topper with 95%.

Freedom International School, HSR Layout: A total of 79 students appeared for the CBSE class 12 examination. As many as 70 students secured distinction, while nine passed with first class. Shyamak Deb emerged as the Science stream topper with 96.4%, Dhrithi S. topped the Commerce stream with 91.8%, and Anarghya Tejaswi J. M. emerged as the Humanities topper with 94.4%.

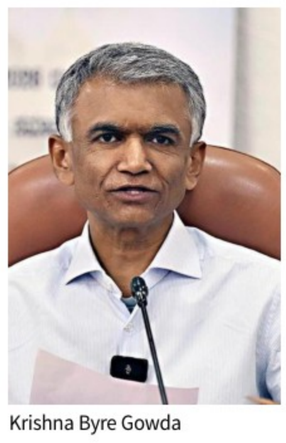
National Public School, Koramangala: A total of 91 students appeared for the CBSE class 12 examination. As many as 79 students secured distinction, while 12 passed with first class. Adwait Amit Ranade and Maheshwar M. emerged as the joint Science stream toppers with 98.6% each, while Aaryan Biyani and Rhea George were the joint Commerce stream toppers with 96.4% each.

National Public School, Indiranagar: In the Science stream, Abhijay Sarmah and Siddhartha Raghavan N. emerged as joint school toppers with 97.8%. They were followed by Vasu Kaushik with 97%, while Aritri Dutta, Saanika Jain and Sruthi Bhathey secured 96.8% each. In the Commerce stream, Arjun Krishnan topped with 98.6%, followed by Aarna Kumar with 96.8% and Radha Upadhye with 95%. In the Humanities stream, Sanjana Menon emerged as the topper with 96.4%, followed by Shrestha Deb with 93.6% and Avanija Singh with 90.4%.

Army Public School, K. Kamaraj Road: A total of 147 students appeared for the examination. In the Science stream, Ayushmann emerged as the topper with 95%, followed by Raymon Kaur Bath with 93.60% and Aanya Beri with 93.20%. In the Commerce stream, Sidharth S. S. topped with 97.40%, followed by Shreya Pillai with 95.20% and Priyanka with 94%. In the Humanities stream, Tabitha Koshy emerged as the topper with 98.40%, followed by Hansika Meena with 97%, while Hazel Elizabeth Khattri and Nysa Karki scored 93.60% each.

'90% of long-pending revenue cases before AC courts cleared in last 3 years'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Krishna Byre Gowda

As many as 73,624 cases were pending before courts when I took charge of the Revenue Department three years ago

KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA
Revenue Minister

The Revenue Department has managed to provide solace to farmers as more than 90% of the pending cases before the revenue courts headed by assistant commissioners in the State have been cleared in the last three years, according to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Announcing this at a video conference with assistant commissioners of all the revenue sub-divisions of the State recently to review the progress with respect to clearing the pending cases, the Minister pointed out that 73,624 cases were pending before assistant commissioners' courts when he took charge of the Revenue Department three years ago; but these numbers had now reduced to 7,490 due to various reforms initiated in the department.

While this accounted for clearance of 90% with respect to long-pending cases, the officials had been directed to clear the other pending cases too expeditiously, the Minister said.

He said when he took charge of the department, farmers had to run from pillar to post due to the huge pendency of revenue cases. As the delay in disposing of these cases affected their lives, he had decided to provide priority for expeditious clearance of such cases, the Minister explained.

Observing that such an achievement would not have been possible without the cooperation from officials, he expressed gratitude to them.

At the same time, the Minister expressed displeasure over Bengaluru Rural District Assistant Commissioner Kiran for lethargic and indifferent attitude towards clearing the pending cases.

"While the entire State is doing well, this area which is represented by me in the Assembly is lagging behind in clearance of cases. Inconvenienced by this, people are coming to my home office to enquire about the delay," he said.

Asking the erring official to abide by norms, he expressed concern that such indifference by a few officials was bringing a bad name to the entire bureaucracy.

Shivanand Neelannavar, promoter of alleged Ponzi scheme, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Shivanand S. Neelannavar

The Belagavi police arrested Shivanand S. Neelannavar, the promoter of Shivam Associates, a financial firm that had been operating without regulatory approvals, on Friday.

Shivam Associates (ACCUMEN), the firm he founded, faces charges of collecting deposits from the general public by promising 36% returns, without approval from the RBI, SEBI, Department of Cooperation, or any other Central or State agency. Preliminary investigations revealed that over 35,000 persons had invested in the firm. A significant number of them are ex-servicemen. The firm was running a multi-level marketing scheme that had no approvals either. The quantum of funds involved is yet to be determined.

Belagavi Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Roshan told reporters in Belagavi on Saturday that the alleged Ponzi scheme scam is likely to be transferred to the CID as it has inter-State and inter-district ramifications, in addition to the fact that *prima facie*, the amount involved crossed ₹50 crore.

He said that investigators are scanning all the documents retrieved from the offices of the firm and the residences of Neelannavar to gather data related to its operations. In most cases, the deposits were received as hand loans. However, there is a High Court judgement which states that hand loans can be treated as deposits in such cases, the Deputy Commissioner said.

"The accused is not cooperating with investigators. He is dodging all serious and specific questions by giving vague and unrelated responses. We will seek police custody of the accused as we need him for further investigations," said Police Commissioner Borase Bhushan Gulabrao.

The Police Commissioner added that most transactions of Shivam Associates were done through banks using cheques and a website built for that purpose. Officials have initiated steps to freeze the bank accounts.

"We appeal to the public to conduct due diligence before investing their money. For example, when the State Bank of India pays around 6-7% interest for deposits, how can any agency afford to pay 36%? This means that the agency is using methods that do not have the sanction of the law. People should not respond to such impossible claims," he said.

Indian gaur captured in Chikkamagaluru district

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Indian gaur which was captured by the Forest Department near Arenur in Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Forest Department captured a male Indian gaur, aged between 18 and 20, near Arenur in Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday evening, marking what officials described as the first scientific capture of the species in South India.

The operation was originally planned at Koppa Estate, near Koppa, but was shifted to Arenur by Saturday afternoon as staff reported no gaur movement there and received information about an animal straying close to human habitation near Balehonnur. "We shifted the operation to Arenur. An Indian gaur was captured scientifically, for the first time," said E. Shivashankar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Koppa Division.

The animal is being transported to the Shivamogga Zoo for observation, after which the department will decide on releasing it back into the forest, the officer stated.

The operation is part of a broader initiative to develop a Standard Operating Procedure for the capture and translocation of conflict-causing Indian gaurs in the district.

Six people have lost their lives in gaur attacks in Chikkamagaluru over the past three years.

CM in favour of HC Circuit Bench in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Vibhu Bakhru, requesting that he consider the demand to set up a Circuit Bench of the High Court in Mangaluru.

In his recent letter, the Chief Minister said that the State government is fully prepared to facilitate the initiative with "immediate effect" and that suitable infrastructure to set up the bench is already available in Mangaluru.

"A spacious premise of approximately 50,000 sq. ft. in the old Deputy Commissioner's office in Mangaluru has been identified," the letter said.

Siddaramaiah to address Mega PTM on June 1 to welcome students

All schools should organise school opening ceremonies like a festival, says School Education Minister while addressing principals, teachers, officials through a video-conference on Saturday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will address a Mega Parent Teacher Meeting (Mega PTM) which will be held simultaneously in all government schools across the State and have a direct interaction with the students and parents through video-conference on June 1, when government schools reopen, said School Education and Literacy Minister S. Madhu Bangarappa.

"The Chief Minister will welcome the students to the schools on June 1. All schools should organise school opening ceremonies like a festival," he said, addressing principals, teachers and top officials of the department through a video conference on Saturday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah will also lay the foundation stone for the construction of a new building of a Karnataka Public School (KPS) in Shivamogga, the Minister said, adding that it was everyone's responsibility to provide clear information to the public and parents about the purpose, quality and facilities available at KPS schools.

The Minister also said the first priority should be to increase the enrollment of students in government schools to the maximum level. Students who have failed should be identified, made aware and brought back to school, he said.

Siddaramaiah will lay the foundation stone for the construction of a new building of a Karnataka Public School in Shivamogga. FILE PHOTO

Madhu Bangarappa lauds the efforts of teachers and officials for the historic results recorded in the recent SSLC and II PU examinations

Mr. Bangarappa instructed that the midday meal scheme has to be implemented effectively from day one and all necessary materials, including textbooks and uniforms, should be distributed to the students in a timely manner at the beginning of the school year. Officials should visit schools regularly to ensure quality teaching and teacher attendance, he directed.

The Minister also lauded the efforts of teachers and officials for the historic results recorded in the recent SSLC and II PU examinations.

He said the department's 29-point circular, including question banks, preparatory exams with question papers prepared at the State level, contributed to this achievement.

SEP: Parameshwara to head Cabinet sub-committee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Saturday issued an order constituting a Cabinet sub-committee headed by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, an educationist and a former Higher Education Minister of the State, to review the final report submitted by the State Education Policy (SEP) Commission and make appropriate recommendations. The Cabinet on May 7 resolved to form a Cabinet Sub-Committee.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H. K. Patil, Social Welfare Minister H. C. Mahadevappa, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Sharan Prakash Patil and Higher Education Minister M. C. Sudhakar are the members of the sub-committee. School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa not being named a member of the sub-committee has raised eyebrows.

Congress and AAP oppose 'One Nation, One election', while BJP welcomes it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday strongly opposed the Union government's proposed "One Nation, One Election" (ONOE) initiative, during a dialogue organised by the Joint Parliamentary (JPC) Study Committee in Bengaluru, while State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra supported its implementation.

Leaders from various political parties met the JPC on the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill on the issue of simultaneous elections. They gave representations and interacted with JPC chairmanship P.P. Chaudhary (BJP MP) and Sambit Patra (BJP MP).

Mr. Shivakumar argued that the ONOE idea was "a politically motivated power-centralising scheme that would seriously damage the federal structure by weakening the States", and it posed a danger to the democratic system.

He stated that the Karnataka Legislative Assembly had already passed a resolution opposing the ONOE and read out that resolution at the meeting, arguing that it was also an impractical idea. Mr. Shivakumar alleged that it was "a ploy to suppress the voices of regional parties and Opposition parties".

Dignitaries during a discussion on 'One Nation, One Election' initiative, organised by the Joint Parliamentary Study Committee in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deputy Chief Minister says One Nation, One Election poses a danger to democratic system

Mr. Vijayendra contended that simultaneous elections would not only ease the burden on the State exchequer, but also help the bureaucracy better focused on developmental work.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which also presented its views, argued that the Centre's cited reasons for simultaneous elections "are neither relevant nor being resolved by the current amendment". Presenting nine key reasons for its opposition, the AAP argued, "Election expenditure is estimated to be around 0.25% of the Union government Budget which is a justified expense done on an important tool of democracy. The proposed bill does not mention or address how and how much of this expense will be or can be saved."

The AAP said that while the amendment tries to address some technicalities of administration, it tends to overlook the spirit of democracy and intent of our Constitution. Speaking later at a press meet, Mr. Chaudhary pointed out that the ONOE was a Constitutional amendment and needs two-thirds majority. "Therefore, this amendment can happen only if the NDA gets the support of other parties. And I am sure that all parties, in the national interest, without ego, will be able to resolve differences and arrive at a consensus. Our aim is to submit such a report that is acceptable to all." He added, however, that maintaining synchronised elections over the years can be a "herculean task".

He argued that governance directly and indirectly get hit because multiple elections being held in multiple States at different times. "With the officials being away in election duty, social welfare schemes do not reach the beneficiaries," he said.

Students should have skills by end of academic year: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said that the government's objective is to see that students pursuing higher education should have professional skills by the end of their academic period.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the Karnataka C2C (Campus to Career) Summit on Saturday, Dr. Sudhakar said that the summit was a first step towards preparing students for exiting the university with industry-required training. He said skill-based training was the only way to eliminate unemployment.

Dr. Sudhakar chaired a meeting with representatives of 39 leading corporate firms appealing to them to invest their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds in the higher education sector of the State.

The Minister made a presentation of the skill centers, training and learning methods implemented in the last three years in government degree and technical colleges using the CSR funds.

CSR funds

"If big industries invest their CSR funds in higher education, we can innovate in skill learning among students in rural areas. The government is ready for an open discussion about their investment in this regard," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Realtor receives ransom threat calls from man identifying himself as Vicky Shetty

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A city-based realtor, G. K. Shankar, has allegedly received ransom threat calls from a person identifying himself as "Vicky Shetty" and claiming to be an operative of the underworld.

Vicky Shetty is an underworld operative hailing from Mangaluru, said to be based abroad, and a former aide of another underworld operative Ravi Poojary arrested by Karnataka Police in 2020.

According to sources, Mr. Shankar received the first call a few days ago. During the conversation, the caller allegedly claimed to be Vicky Shetty and demanded ransom money from the realtor. The caller also reportedly threatened to kill Shankar during his son's wedding ceremony if the demanded money was not paid.

Initially, Shankar ignored the calls, believing them to be a prank. However, after receiving repeated threat calls, he approached the police and lodged a formal complaint. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the matter.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the threats were made through internet-based calls received on Shankar's mobile phone. The police are now working to trace the origin of the calls and identify the accused behind the extortion attempt.

Reconnecting with a forgotten river: Citizen-led audit to assess SWDs feeding into Vrishabhavati

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

A guided citizen audit of the storm-water drains (SWDs) of the Vrishabhavati River will be coordinated by Paani Earth Foundation as part of the 'Building a resilient Bengaluru' initiative by Mod Foundation on May 17.

The initiative is aimed at bringing citizens together to collectively observe and document the physical conditions of the SWDs that feed into the stretch of the river between Kengeri Metro Station and Kengeri Bus Terminal Metro Station. The audit data will be fed into an open public dashboard.

The 'Building a Resilient Bengaluru' is a public awareness and action campaign to document and improve the city's storm-water systems. Madhuri Mandava, co-founder of Paani.Earth, emphasises on the importance of such citizen-led engagements, saying that the biggest hurdle to reimagining rivers or to revive them is the citizen disconnect. "We met a 73-year-old man who remembers swimming in Vrishabhavati till he was 10," she said. But the perception about the river has been changing as generations pass. A tributary of the Arkavathi that eventually flows into the Cauvery, the river today is heavily polluted by sewage and industrial waste and is often derisively referred to as "Kengeri Mori" or the Kengeri sewer.

The 'Building a Resilient Bengaluru' is a public awareness and action campaign to document and improve the city's storm-water systems. FILE PHOTO

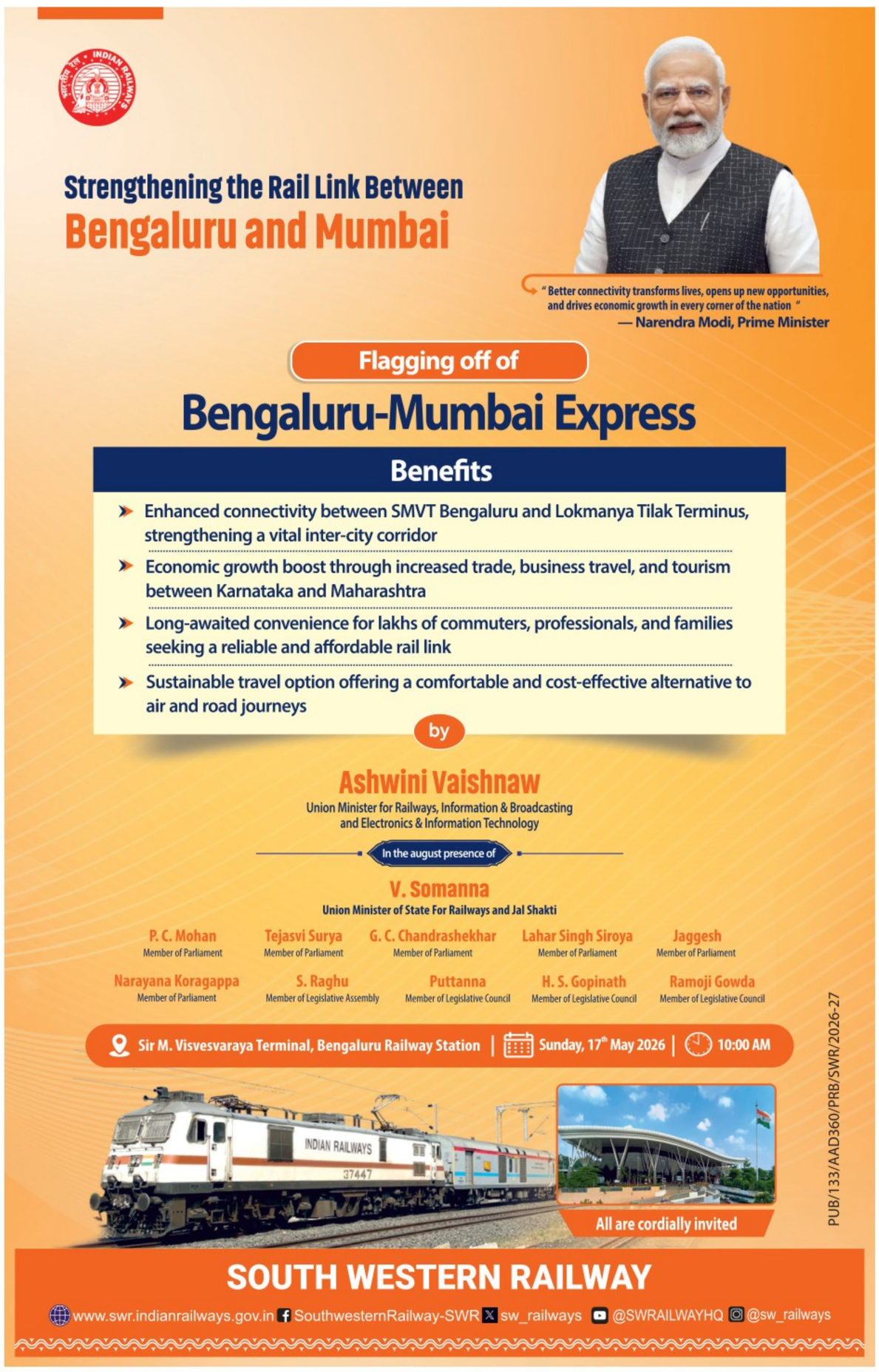
The initiative is aimed at bringing citizens together to observe and document the physical conditions of the SWDs

Shifting perceptions

"We organise 'By the River' every second Sunday near the Vrishabhavati, where people gather to sing, make art, do activities and simply acknowledge that the river still exists. Once, an elderly couple walked up to us and, on seeing what we were doing, they grew emotional and joined us. While many youngsters who were around didn't care much and dismissed it as a 'mori'," Ms. Mandava remembered. "This is the same disconnect we see for every tributary to Cauvery-whether it is Lakshmanatheertha or Hemavathi. Everybody looks at these streams as channels that carry their wastewater away, but not as freshwater ecosystems. If Bengaluru starts an initiative like this to reconnect with the rivers, it will lead the way."

During the audit, participants will look at parameters and visual indicators such as the presence of retaining walls and their height, sewage inlets into the stream, solid waste, the colour of the water, the smell, buffer zones, the nature of the spaces next to the streams and so on. All the data will be fed into a public dashboard built by MOD Foundation, and a data jam will later be held with the collected data. What comes out of the data jam could also act as feedback on the existing mechanisms, Ms. Mandava noted.

Since it's done spatially, it is also a data set that the GBA can use. This way, the public becomes the eyes for the government, she said.


Strengthening the Rail Link Between
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" Better connectivity transforms lives, opens up new opportunities, and drives economic growth in every corner of the nation "
— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
Flagging off of
Bengaluru-Mumbai Express
Benefits
Enhanced connectivity between SMVT Bengaluru and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, strengthening a vital inter-city corridor
Economic growth boost through increased trade, business travel, and tourism between Karnataka and Maharashtra
Long-awaited convenience for lakhs of commuters, professionals, and families seeking a reliable and affordable rail link
Sustainable travel option offering a comfortable and cost-effective alternative to air and road journeys
by
Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology
In the august presence of
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State For Railways and Jal Shakti
P. C. Mohan
Tejasvi Surya
G. C. Chandrashekhar
Lahar Singh Siroya
Jaggesh
Narayana Koragappa
S. Raghu
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THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
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BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
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HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
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MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
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MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DOCTOR

VANIYAR 31, MBBS/ MS, Midhunam, Thiruvadurai, Slim seeks MBBS/ MS Doctor Groom only. Contact: 9444259255

DM DOCTOR Girl, 156/1992, Chennai seeks for suitable alliance. 9497168001, 9447493034

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

Tamil Muslim, doing MD (derm), well settled Industrialist family in Chennai.

Seeks Medico MD / MS Groom from a well settled family.

27yrs / 158cm / Fair

Contact:
Jabbarshahul64@gmail.com
98840 15371
96000 74295

Seeking a Doctor Groom

An Obstetrics and Gynaecologist 28, 156, Fair, from a respected, education - oriented, tamil (Udayar Hindu) Chennai based family, seeks a groom with matching calibre, from a family of similar standing.

Family enquiries only
Ct : 98410 78080

DKV, 29 years, Female Radiologist, Divorced, Chennai, prefer, IAS/ Doctor/Officers Contact: 9047119910

Hindu Tamil Pillai, Girl MBBS (25/168) Fair, Chithrai-4 /Swathi-1 Thulam Rasi, seeks professional groom preferably Doctor. Ph. 9940533051.

ENGINEER

Wanted Groom-Muslim

1997, 5'6", beautiful, fair, Stanford Master's. Multi-talented/compassionate, Seeks well-qualified groom from Top 15 US schools or Top 15 schools in India.

(E) uzsh0214@gmail.com

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

Alliance invited for educated Brahmin girl, 28, Self-Employed, mutually divorced, seeking well-settled Govt officer /professional groom 8109050829

MALAYALAM

NAIR DOCTOR Girl DM 32 yrs 161cm seeks Doctor/Professional. Contact 8089584220/9249920550

NRI

TAMIL MUDALIAR Girl, UAE MNC, 3.5 LPM, DOB: 26/12/94, Caste No Bar, Ct: 8667248379

TAMIL

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Nadar, 31 PG, Employed, fair, beautiful Girl, Chennai seeks fair, well settled, Religious Christian boy. Ct: 9840345969

CHRISTIAN, DIVORCED, M.tech, 30crores, Looking for 2nd marriage groom in Uk for our daughter from any subcaste,8138900553

CHRISTIAN, MBA, 31, Looking for Govt and doctor professional in Rc,Rc nadar,RC pillai,Rcsc groom in tamilnadu or pondicherry, 7356483111

CHRISTIAN NADAR Dec1996 165cm MBBS MD MRCS working in Apollo Hospital Chennai Seeks Doctor Groom MBBS MD MS. Contact: 9444421884. 8122682017

Groom needed for female 24 yrs 165 cm, M.Tech Software Engg working in Bgl either CSI/Ag.. whatsapp bio data: 9566947447

CHRISTIAN, CSI, BE, Entrepreneur, searching for a Rich/affluent groom from CSI and Christian Nadar from 25-29. 8138900235

RCSC CHRISTIAN, searching for any subcaste, Govt job grooms for my daughter from 32-36. 7356483111

CATHOLIC, MSC, 70 lakhs, UK, searching for a groom in any subcaste from 28-34. 8138900412

SEEKING GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL for 44yrs unmarried Tamil SC Hindu Adi Dravida Female IT professional (20yrs exp) from Chennai holding Singapore PR. Contact +919790921761/+91 7200942776.

BUSINESS

Want Business Groom - B'ful Girl 2002 Born/ 163 cm / Bengaluru based/ Masters/ Only Daughter (9940571018)

COSMOPOLITAN

✔ **Suitable Alliance** for 28 years old Christian Bride, doing M.D., Tamil Parents, Hyderabad based (Father-retd. Sr. Executive, Private Service, Mother-Consultant Physician). Contact: WhatsApp - 79972 79991, Email: pcig6961@gmail.com

ACS MBA Working MNC Naidu Issueless Divorcee. 50 yrs, Seeks Groom CNB. Contact : 87788 73501

DIVORCEE

GORGEOUS, CREATIVE, 43, loyal, enterprising, affluent mompreneur. Seeks compatible, progressive partner. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

HINDU DIVORCEE, 45 yrs, Very fair, No child, Seeks Qualified Groom. CNB. 9880151826

TAMIL YADAVA Tirunelveli girl 31 MBA, IT professional, Ashwini, Mesham settled in Chennai. Ct: 8825670049

Hindu, 43 Years, Fair, MSc, Divorcee, Son c/o ex, seeks well-settled Groom below 52. Contact: 9791881860

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 JPMC /IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40L PA Own House. Seeks blw 38yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar,27yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family in Chennai Ph: 6385293227

ARCOT VELALA Mudaliar girl 28/ Thiruvoonam/ fair/158/ M.Tech MSc (Digt Mktg –Singapore) highly paid seeks Professional groom of well educated & respected family Ct. 9841666230

HINDU, ADIDRAVIDAR, 29, Masters Law,Looking for govt staffs in higher designation for my daughter in same caste or equal caste, 8138009235

VANNAN, 27, BE, 30lakhs, Looking for same caste groom from 27-32 in tamil or telugu in overall tamilnadu for our daughter,8137001255

MUDALIAR, MS, Doctor, 40lakhs, Looking for 32-35 from Same or equal caste in MS,MD,ME for my daughter,8138900312

VANNIYA GOUNDER, MBBS, 24, Looking for Civil service groom (IAS,IFS,IRS) Grade1 in south india from any caste for my own daughter, 8137003550

PILLAI, 23, MSC, Looking for pillai and mudaliar groom in upper middle/rich and affluent in tamilnadu,8138900412

HINDU NADAR, – B.E, M.B.A – 30/ 158cm Software Engineer – Udangudi – Seeking Bridegroom Cell: 9626735777

BRIDEGROOM WANTED for a well–to–do hindu family's bride age 43, first marriage, degree–MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. CT: 9080359664.

BE/30/155 Pooradam Fair good looking rich Mudaliar with moral values seek suitable groom. 7975421774

✔ **ALLIANCE INVITED for Hindu SC girl, 26 yrs, 169 cm, LLM, 25LPA, Associate in Capital Markets at a top–tier law firm, Mumbai/Chennai. Looking for a well–settled, professionally qualified groom from same community. Ph: 9152236196**

Alliance invited from a well settled and educated family for a 37y old independent, career-oriented woman. Height: 160 cm, highly qualified, currently working as international teacher in Dubai. Legally divorced, no children, seeking mature & responsible groom. Telugu / Tamil pref. Divorcees welcome. Contact: 94451 20943 . Email: rajanisuganthi@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED SC (AD),34yrs, ME, well educated family background in Chennai Ph; 9962791888

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar,26yrs, BE, Own Transports in Chennai, Affluent family Ph: 6385293227

DEVAR 28 170cm M arch Australia seeks well Qualified Grooms in Australia Devar only Geetham 9884858014

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 26 160cm BE Chennai seeks professionals India / Abroad Naidu Only Geetham 9884858014

LOOKING FOR a suitable Bridegroom for a vanniar girl, aged 28 yrs, B.Com B.L. Hons with ACS & employed in a big Corporate. Similar profile or other Professionals with good family background based in Chennai preferred ct: 9003199945 / 9003035547

✔ **VANNIA KULA Kshatriya MD 31y6m Affluent Good Looking Smart Working in Corporate Hospital seeks Well to do Groom MD/MS 9840471097**

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriyar, 26/5.2, BArch, Star–Karthigai, Rishaba Rasi, Working in Chennai. Seeks Suitable & Qualified Groom. Ph: 9840926156

DKV/SC, 32/ May 94, 167cm, Fair, BE (CS), Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. / Abroad. Ct:8056143638

TAMIL

VANNIYAR, (27/164), LLM, Beautiful, Working in a Pvt Concern Chennai seeks suitable groom. Ct. 9940655572

RISHIBAM, KARTHIGAI 42/152 M.Com, B.Ed, Veg seeks Employed groom Caste No Bar, BC,MBC prefd Ct:8682080448

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employed bridegroom 8754354205

HINDU NADAR, 43/171, B.Tech, MS, Working in Canada, First Marriage, willing to relocate to US,London. Seeks Bride, Caste No Bar. 8148166505.

FASHION DESIGNER SaivaMudaliar Anusham 33 VeryFair Propertied Need Veg IT/ Govt Employed Groom 9566268349

ANY VEG (MIN 75K) for saivapillai, age28,salary 1.5L 2 flat owner thirivathirai,simmam.9382211111

DOCTOR MD ANS HINDU NADAR 30 YR 170 CM seeks groom DR ER GOVT BANK details 9976610580

WNTD SAIVA Pillai BE SE, Blr, Teetotaler, born 1996+, for S.Pillai Girl 26, BE(CSE), MNC, Strict Veg. No Brkrs. BHP must. 6364789344

DOCTOR PARENTS, 28 yrs Daughter (High - Functioning Special Child) seeks Hindu Nadar Groom from Madurai. Ct: 94437 51221

RC TAMIL, 1997/156cm, Radiographer, DRDT, seeks liberal– minded, suitable match, 9443784674, 00447878127414, mselvaraj24@yahoo.com.Caste no bar.

MUDALIAR 25/167, Fair, Beautiful BE, SWE, CTS,1200000.PA, Well–Settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIYAR, ENT Surgeon, looking for a equal caste in Masters, Civil services and Well educated groom for my Daughter from 30-35. 8138900312

DIVORCED BRIDE, UK, looking for a rich and affluent groom in Hindu or Christian from 31-36. 8138900652

GROOM WANTED Naidu,30yrs,B.Tech, Divorce,Affluent business family in Chennai:6385293227

GROOM WANTED CNB, 27yrs, MBBS, MD, well educated family background in Chennai: 6385293227

BRAHMIN-IYER, 28, MDS, Looking for a Professional groom in Maharashtra, Delhi, Hyderabad for our daughter, 8138900652

BRAHMIN, MODERATE family, MDS, all languages groom, location in Mumbai from 29-32 well educated doctor or other professionals. 8138900533

BEAUTIFUL, CARING 33, 165cm, intelligent (Master's), soft–spoken professional. Cultured, VEG, TamBram. Noted industrialist family. Seeks compatible groom. Call/WA 93456 34365

Tamil Yadava Girl , MBA 24 yrs / 160cm, from an affluent family, fair & good Looking Thiruvathirai star

Seeks a Good Looking, well Educated and Settled Groom Age: 25 to 27 years

contact : 9884262668

Bride Groom Wanted for DOCTOR

Bride, 34 yrs, 5'7", divorcee, doctor (MBBS,MD,DM), from an elite business family, Hindu Nadar, based in Tirunelveli,

seeks a suitable groom from an affluent family (caste no bar)

Kindly contact 9994851637/ 9790445335

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

IYER, 2ND Marriage, 44, B.E, Job in Chennai MNC Company, Wanting any suitable Vegetarian bride, 7418006626, vijaydeep1947@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

US–RETURNED MS (USA), 33/6ft, Sr. Manager, MNC, Chennai; mutually divorced. Seeking educated, professional, open–minded, family–oriented bride (28–34); CNB/divorcee welcome. 98430–45585

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 30, 185cm, sociable, educated (BL/IIM), 2nd–gen biz owner. Respected, industrialist family. Seeks compatible bride. Lang. & caste no bar. Call/ WA 93456 34365

Aryavysya, Caste No bar, 29 yrs, 178 cm, Software, 45 LPA, mild eye issue, Seeking simple Girl. Ph: 8555072557

✔ **Post-Graduate Electronics** Engineer, 30 years old, working in Hyderabad (Semiconductor Services Firm), seeks suitable Christian Bride, Tamil Parents (Father - Retd. Sr. Executive, Private sector, Mother - Consultant Physician), Contact: WhatsApp: 79972 79991, email Id: pcig6961@gmail.com

Wanted UK based Doctor / Engineer bride for a 27 year old Hindu Tamil Engineer working / settled in Cambridge UK. Parents Doctors. Contact: swadhaya@gmail.com

MBA (SPAIN) Fair Boy 30/185 Elite, Educated Family. Seeks Fair Beautiful Girl, Caste No bar 9840970170

DIVORCEE

48YRS. TOP mgmt. Pvt. Sector, Chennai. Good Salary, Viswakarma, Divorcee, No issues. CNB. Suitable bride. Ct : 95661 97522 / 73388 89725

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 38, 171cm, progressive US–based professional at global MNC. Seeks educated, compatible S Indian bride. Call/WA 93456 34365

MUDALIAR 34, Pub.Sec Employee Wellsettled, Short Divorcee, No issues Suitable Elite Bride Ct:W 9830282090

✔ **Looking for** Hindu Veg. life partner in 40s for a man working in 50s Divorcee. no issues. Ct: 9840211389

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Feb 1998, 178cm, MD, DM Nephrology, Seeks Doctor Bride. Contact: 9500085244

HINDU SC / AD, MD Pathology, Age : 31yrs., Star : Ashwini, seeks Doctor MD / MS Bride. Ct: 866 755 5837

MALAYALAM

SUITABLE HINDU Malayalam Bride CNB for Coimbatore TN Settled I/C Groom (F) Vellalar Pillai (M) Nair 40/180 Chadhayam B.Tech MNC Bosch Projects, 30 LPA. CT: 99524 85996.

PUNJABI

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Punjabi Boy, Chennai, 34 years, working as HR in UAE. Please Call : 98404 25490

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Boy 38 years Divorcee, MDS, Dental Surgeon, Own Clinic, 7 Lakh PM, well settled, Coimbatore, Seeks bride, Caste & Religion No bar. Ct: 9843865067 / 9790166987

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN 26/BE/172/12L PA Well Settled Family Seeks Educated Bride. Subsect No Bar. Contact : 8148004573

TAMIL CATHOLIC Bachelor 52 years, B.Sc / 25000 Seeks God Fearing Tamil Catholic Spinster. Ct: 9840319390 / E Mail: edwindinroze059@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN NADAR 165cm / 28 yrs Advocate in Chennai, also pursuing CA. Prefer Doctor. Contact– 9444944609

MUKKULATHOR REMARRIAGE Rich 31 175cm BE Business Kochi Kerala seeks suitable Bride CNB Geetham 9884858014

SAIVAPILLAI 53 165cm MCA IT Engineer UK Seeks UK profiles / Willing to go UK CNB Geetham 9884858014

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 26yrs,B.Tech,SWE,1.5 lp/m,well educated family Ph: 9841329471,9380791999

VIGNESH MCA 37 Cluster Manager in Hinduja Finance. Seeks Sozhia Vellaler/ Mudhaliar Bride. Ct:97905 96388

TAMIL

HINDU SC/AD, 40/163cm fair, B.Tech (CSE), SWP, Moolam, Dhansu, never married, Chennai, seeks Professionally qualified, never married groom below 43yrs from India / Abroad. Caste No Bar. Call / WA: 8754566571

Viswakarma 31 years Central Govt seeking groom from suitable Tamil / Telugu BC family only. Ct:98401 05941

HINDU SC/AD 25/150cm M.A (International Relations) preparing for Admn Exam seeks Groom Govt /Pvt Employed Groom. 9841697885 / 9841697884

Christian, 1991, 162 cm, BDS + MPH, Seeks Groom, Chennai, Contact: 9042331000.

TELUGU

Balija Naidu 28yrs/172cm, M.Sc (C.S) Visakam 3rd Padam, Thulam Rasi, Fair, Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom.Ct: 9445229864/044-42875069

NAIDU M. Arch wkg MNC 31/170 Rohini well settled seeks groom from any Telugu/any BC comm 7904100156

NAIDU 25/167, Fair, Beautiful, B.Tech, SWE, HCL,1200000.PA, Well–Settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

NAIDU: 25/V.FAIR, B.Arch, Doing Father Business, Chennai, Elite Family (100cr), seeks any Telegu Groom Business / Eng – 9962530015

TELUGU

DIVORCEE CHETTIAR (CNB) 27yrs / Beautiful, MBBS,MS, Doctor, Chennai, Elite family,Only daughter–seeks groom Doctor/Any PG Degree–8925019776

వరుడు కావలెను

Hyderabad BC Caste 30Yrs. Height 5.10" B.Tech., Rich family అందమైన అమ్మాయికి, Rich Person Hyd. (or) Banglore. అబ్బాయి కావలెను Caste No Bar

ఓం నమోవెంకటేశాయ
Tirupati:7093722724

Affluent upper middle-class Balija Naidu family seeks a suitable alliance for their daughter, 31 years, 5 feet, wheatish, BE, MS, MBA, presently working in USA. Groom should be well-educated, professionally accomplished, and from a good family background. Ct: 9047010018 / 9787943250

URDU

AGE–35, BE Graduate Working, Divorce, Muslim Bride, Seeks A Groom in a Good Job. Ct: 9865130076

Sunni Muslim Girl from a respectable and Affluent Family, 2003 born, BE Educated (080-6914 1325)

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR, – B.E – 29/180cm Data Engineer – Good Salary – Chennai – Seeking Bride Cell: 9600227299

SAIVA PILLAI (CNB), 29, Pooradam, BE, MS(USA), SWE, MNC seeks USA based bride. Ct: 9444951621.

✔ **SEEKING GOODLOOKING** bride for manager in PSB, age 38, Rohini, Mudhalyar, caste: no bar. Contact : 9445311859

AGAMUDAIYAR 42 180cm MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9445612997

MUDALIAR 29 BE,MBA 178cm smart 32Lacs PA, well settled family seeks Bride, CNB Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU/OBC 38/179, B.Tech, Pvt. Service Sector 5.5Lpa. Seeks suitable Birde, Caste No Bar. Ct: 9944385814

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar,28yrs,CA, 2lakhs pm,well educated family Ph:9841329471 / 9380791999

THONDAIMANDALA MUDALIYAR boy 41 B.B.A.,D.M.E Annamalai University, Chidambaram,10Acres land owned. Seeks Vegetarian Mudaliyar or Vegetarian girl.Divorcee no kids,good family background will consider.Ct. 8668154951

HINDU NADAR 39yr MA, M.Phil, Own Busines in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride in Nellai/ Tuticorin 8637660391

PROFESSOR - Govt. College, 45 / Divorcee, Caste, Religion - No Bar. Ct:94426 95558

VANNIAR GROOM 12.06.1982, B.E, M.B.A (Lon), Divorced, No issue. IT Chennai, 16.5 Lakhs/PA. Seeks Bride CNB (OC, BC, M.B.C Only) Contact: 9944928521 Vellore.

BRIDE WANTED SC (AD),30yrs, BE, MBA,Well Educated Family in Chennai Ph:6385293227

BRIDE WANTED 28yrs,civil service, Well Educated Family background, Caste no bar Ph:6385293227

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

MBBS DR, Hindu, BC, 49, Divorced, Rich Family, Caste/Age no bar, seeks Good Bride. Ct 9952998820

MUDHALIYAR, CA,24L pa, Age–40, Never married, Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land, Sub Caste ok. 7305460763

SEEKING EDUCATED Bride for: a 39y/ 171cm Hindu, Chartered Accountant – top Firm in Chennai.WA: 8220636792

NAIDU, PHD, Age –42, Never married, Pooradam, 12L / pa, Own House, Sub Caste ok. Ct: 8754756329

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI 40/165, M. Tech.,Ph.D., HOD, Pvt. Engg College, Pondy Seeks Bride 31 to 37yrs 9442557578

SC AD 28/B.E.,MS., Software Engr. 6Lakhs p.m./Only One Son Well Settled Family. Seeks Bride. Ph:7397674481

EZHAVA Boy 28/174cm Midhunam, Coimbatore Based, BE Mech. Eng, Working in Chennai. Seeks suitable Girl from good family, no demands. 9443136400, 9443222000.

TAMIL

SUITABLE GIRL for a Sofware Developer, born 1997 in USA, 175cm, Wheatish complexion/ Athletic/ Handsome Tamil Mudaliar. Caste no bar. Ct: 6379372255/ Mail: rs123home@gmail.com

DOCTOR PARENTS, Hindu Nadar, 25 yrs, M.S Gen. Surgeon seeks MBBS Bride. Ct: 94437 51221

MUDALIAR 29/182, Handsome, BE, SWE, Infosys,2000000.PA,Well–Settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

35, 178CM BE, MBA Working in MNC Chennai Senior Consultant Earning 50 LPA Seeks Educated, Employed Girl From a Respectable Family Caste No Bar 9840553601

KONGU VELLALA gounder, 28, USA, MS, IAS Family, looking for a bride in same caste and well educated family. 8137003550

31 YRS groom doing M.Ch Urology, Chennai, seeks vegetarian PG doctor / professional non medico bride Contact : 9080296807

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE,PHD,PROFESSOR Pvt Eng.Collage, age 53, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divor cee without child from FC/ OBC (40–4 5yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959

VANIYA CHETTIYAR, 28, MS, Engineer, 45 lakhs, Sweden, searching for same caste and any subcaste from anywhere in Tamilnadu. 8137001255

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 31 yrs,BE, MS (sweden), height 175cm, SWE in sweden,4 lakhs/m from same caste. Contact 9380791999,9611783576, 9841329471

MUDALIYAR 35 Yrs,170 cm B.Tech M.sc, 80 LPA Permanent Job Germany. Revathi,Meenam. 9442135216, 8015435216

DIVORCEE HINDU. 35yrs No issues, M.Tech, well settled Software Engineer, seeking bride with no issues. Caste no bar. 9841862535, 9941962421

28 YRS Hindu, Yadhava well settled family. M.L., Legal Adviser to Maran brothers. Salary One lakh/ pm. seeking bride caste no bar 9841062535

MALE30 GOVT Job Own House&land.No Bro &Sis Seeks Lovable Bride Noexpectations CNB Salem wtsapp 8300797118

IYER / AVITTAM 1988 B.Com / MBA working in Chennai. Seeks Pure Veg working bride. Ct : 63740 43306.

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only

CT: 93842 76066

Pillai 36/177 BE, MBA, SWE MNC, 21LPA, Chennai, seeks suitable Bride, not horoscope Any BC ok.9500147451

BE IIT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91. Wkg in Hyderabad Very high package seeks Bride Telugu, Tamil Allied Castes also Cont: 7382620365

TAMIL

Parkavakula Muppanar 28 Yrs/ 167/ 65/ MNC /Chennai. Ct: 7868063395 / Email Id: siva123waran@gmail.com

Vanniar 1990 Employed US company work from home in chennai seeks employed hindu bride.9884904306

Wanted Prof. Qual. Bride for Tamil Boy 1996 Born/ 175 cm/ Dr-Surgeon / Chennai Based. Contact: 9940570609

Suitable Bride for Mudaliar Boy 1997 Born/ 178 cm/ MS - USA/ Working USA/ Income 5 Cr Call : 9791791603

TELUGU

REDDY, SWATHI, 30/183 BE, MS London, Business, divorced seeks educated, good family background girl. Naidu's also welcome. Ct: 9710933159

DR.C.B.SARATH KUMAR, 35, Naidu Telugu speaking, PhD (Physics) College Professor, well–settled Seeking well–educated, beautiful bride. 9791091658, 8939254271

GAVARA NAIDU 33/155 BSc VC, Elite family, biz, 18L/Pa seeks girl any degree, same/ sub caste. 9962302927

50 yrs above bride interested in devotional travelling for 62yrs. Ph. 8522006061

NAIDU 30/185, Handsome, BE, SWE, HCL,2000000.PA, Well–Settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Affluent Family Balija Naidu Boy Fair/28/178cms/BE, MBA FIN/26LPA Product Manager in MNC seeking Fair/Working/Family oriented Naidu Girl from affluent family. Phone: 9819771675.

Seeking HNI Bride for Naidu Boy 1996 Born / 178 cm/ Businessman / Only Son / Networth 500 Cr (9940571018)

SM4 Kapu Naidu Boy. 35 Yrs /178 cm Dental Surgeon, Own Hospital & MedTech Startup. Seeks Bride Pref. Dr/CA. CT: 9407894965, 9893848984

URDU

Muslim, Sunni Boy, 29/167 IT Manager Working in Chennai MNC, Salary: 32LPA. Marriage done on 08 Nov 2025, same day Girl taken Divorce. Need well Educated Girl. Cell:- 9444376676.

Sunni Muslim Boy (Sep-1993), MS in Engineering, well-settled in USA, Green Card holder (9164400029)

Well-settled Sunni Muslim Boy, 28 years, M.Tech Software Developer (CTC 80PA) (080-69144026)

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

REDDIYAR 54 Australian Citizen and sister 50 both are Divorcee No issues seeks suitable life partner CT WhatsApp +61435496817

GROOMS BORN Yr.85/87, Bride: Yr.91. All graduate. Employed. Invite I/II Marriage Caste No Bar. 9444132753

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

EDUCATIONAL

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THE HINDU

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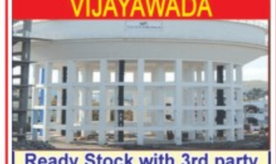

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9866444557
9493579226

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE THE HINDU

Meet seeks action against communal hate, vigilante attacks

A 76-page report released at the Federation of Karnataka Muslim Organisations' convention reviewed the status of several promises and pending issues concerning the community

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Strong action against communal hate speech, mob violence, vigilante attacks and rolling back cow slaughter law emerged as some of the central demands placed before the Karnataka government by the Federation of Karnataka Muslim Organisations, at a convention held in Bengaluru on Saturday.

A 76-page report released at the convention reviewed the status of several promises and pending issues concerning the State's Muslim community. The report examined the government's assurances and actions on communal hate organisations, the 4% Category 2B reservation, repeal of the anti-conversion law, ₹10,000-crore minority welfare allocation, protection of Waqf properties, reservation and caste survey-related social justice measures, educational support schemes and concerns surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Communal harmony

Pointing out that hate speech and communal mobilisation had continued across Karnataka despite a change in government, the report called for stronger legal, administrative and political intervention to protect constitutional rights and communal harmony.

The report documented multiple incidents of alleged hate speech and communal provocation between 2023 and 2026. It referred to calls for violence, threats against mosques and inflammatory communal remarks.

Lynching case

The report particularly highlighted the lynching of Mohammed Ashraf in Mangaluru last June, alleging delays in compensation, pending forensic reports and lack of fast-track trial proceedings despite Supreme Court guidelines on mob violence cases. The report said the incident reflected "systemic failure".

Members of the Federation of Karnataka Muslim Organisations releasing a report during the Karnataka Muslim convention in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Community leaders, who spoke at the convention, expressed concern over what they termed "asymmetric enforcement", alleging that police action was often swift against minorities or ordinary citizens over social media posts, while influential repeat offenders accused of hate speech frequently secured relief or faced weak prosecution.

Anti-lynching law

Among the key demands placed before the government was the enactment of a Karnataka anti-lynching law along with a compensation framework for victims of mob violence. The convention also sought either repeal or amendment of provisions in the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act that, according to the report, "enabled vigilantism and harassment in the name of cow protection".

The summit called for the creation of a notified Communal Hate, Hate Speech and Vigilantism Monitoring Authority under the Home Department with representation from police, the Law Department, civil society and legal experts.

It also recommended a public district-wise dashboard tracking FIRs, chargesheets, bail orders and convictions in hate speech and communal violence cases to improve transparency and accountability.

Another key demand was for the State government to ensure mandatory *suo motu* FIRs in hate speech cases in line with Supreme Court directions in the Shaheen Abdullah judgment, and effective implementation of the Tehseen Poonawalla guidelines on mob lynching.

The convention urged the State to hold consultations with civil society organisations on tackling misinformation and hate campaigns, particularly on social media. It also opposed excessive reliance on surveillance technology, questioning the recent approval for a ₹67.26-crore social media analytics system without what it described as adequate legal safeguards or public consultation.

The report additionally sought police sensitisation programmes on communal bias, mandatory courses in universities on identifying fake news and hate speech, and stricter conditions while granting permission for public rallies and religious processions.

Organisers said the report has been submitted in the spirit of constructive dialogue and the intention is not confrontational.

Report flags political underrepresentation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Political underrepresentation of Muslims in Karnataka emerged as a concern at a convention organised by the Federation of Karnataka Muslim Organisations in Bengaluru.

A report released at the convention argued that the community's share in elected and nominated bodies remains far below its population proportion.

In legislature

The report noted that Muslims constitute nearly 13% of Karnataka's population, but representation in the 224-member Legislative Assembly stands at only around 4.4%. In the 75-member Legislative Council too, Muslims hold only about four seats.

It noted that since the present government assumed office, at least 15 opportunities arose through MLA-quota and Governor-nominated seats where the ruling party had decisive influence, but only one Muslim representative was accommodated.

SIR of electoral rolls

Expressing concern over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and West Bengal, the federation alleged that minorities were facing difficulties during the process.

It urged the Karnataka government to remain vigilant and ensure that similar exercises in the State do not result in harassment or exclusion of eligible voters.

Additional 1,122 seats, ₹1,090 cr. Central fund to improve infra in govt. medical colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has approved enhancement of medical seats in government medical colleges of the State by 1,122 seats for the academic year 2026-27. Not just that, the Union government has also sanctioned ₹1,090 crore for the development of infrastructure in government medical colleges in the State.

As of academic year 2025-26, the State in its 72 government and private medical colleges had 21,672 medical seats, which will go up to 22,794 seats for 2026-27. Of the 1,122 seats to be added for the coming academic year, 550 seats will be for undergraduate (UG) courses and 572 seats will be for postgraduate (PG) courses. As a result, the State will have 14,495 UG seats and 8,299 PG seats for 2026-27.

Minister for Medical Education Sharanprakash R. Patil along with officials addressing a press conference inm Bengaluru on Saturday.

Even in the ₹1,090 crore grant, ₹495 crore will be spent for improving infrastructure for UG students and ₹541 crore for PG students.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Saturday said the NMC had approved their proposal for the massive increase in seats for the State. "Allocation of over 1,000 medical seats to a single State is a record achievement, and stands as a testament to Karnataka's accomplishments," he said.

He said that all the additional seats granted this year would be government quota seats and termed the quantum of increase "equivalent to opening 10 new government medical colleges".

The additional seats allocated to the State will benefit districts, including Koppal, Gadag, Chamarajanagar, Karwar, Haveri and other districts medical colleges, he said.

"The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare gave its final approval to ₹1,090 crore fund on May 15, 2026," he added

Minister for court-monitored probe into NEET paper leak

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terming the recent National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) question paper leak as a "grave injustice to the student community", Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil demanded a "court-monitored" probe into the scandal.

He alleged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), presently probing the case, did not elicit confidence. "A transparent investigation under its watch is unlikely," he said. "This scandal appears to have been orchestrated to enable the sale of MBBS seats. There are strong suspicions that powerful individuals are behind the entire affair," he further alleged, arguing only a court-monitored probe would bring out the truth.

The Centre's "haphazard conduct of NEET has completely eroded public trust," he said, and demanded that the Minister concerned resign.

Bank can't freeze accounts by assuming role of adjudicator: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A bank, being a custodian of funds, cannot assume the role of an adjudicating authority and proceed to freeze accounts of an educational society merely on the basis of internal disputes between rival factions of the society, said the High Court Karnataka.

"Ordinarily, debit freezing of accounts can be justified only when it is backed by authority of law, either at the instance of an investigating agency in connection with a cognisable offence or pursuant to an order passed by a competent court of law," the court observed.

In the present case, the court pointed out that eight savings bank accounts and five fixed deposit accounts of Sri Venkataramana Swamy Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Bantwal, in Dakshina Kannada district, were frozen. It was done merely on the basis of a complaint given by a rival faction of the association when the entitlement of the complainants belonging to rival faction to raise any dispute on fund management itself was under legal challenge, the court pointed.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passed the order on the petition filed by the sangha, which is an educational society running schools and colleges in Bantwal. The petitioner had questioned the action of Canara Bank's Bantwal branch in debit freezing all its accounts based on the complaint lodged by some persons, who claim to be members of the society, alleging mismanagement of its affairs.

Pointing out that issue of complainants' locus as members of the petitioner-sangha is itself pending before the Registrar of Societies, the court said that "the action of the bank in acting upon unilateral complaints and debit freezing the accounts of educational institutions is wholly untenable".

"The power to freeze or attach bank accounts is a drastic measure, which has serious civil consequences. Such coercive action cannot be resorted to in a casual or mechanical manner, and contrary to statutory framework," the court observed.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No.KIADB/CE-1/E-Auction-01/367/2026-27 Date: 15.05.2026

E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PLOTS

This is to inform that Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) intends to allot industrial plots through e-auction. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Industrial Area	Plot No.	Extent (in Sqm)	Extent (in Acre-Gunta)	EMD (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	Hassan Growth Center	233 (Corner Plot)	2150.72	0Acre-21.26Gunta	5.00
2	Hassan Growth Center	373P (Intermediate Plot	1894.11	0Acre-18.72Gunta	5.00

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Schedule of Events For e-Auction is as below:

1) Bidder Registration Starts Date : **18.05.2026. 2)**Last Date for Submission of bid : **06.06.2026 on or before 5.00 PM. 3)** Live Bidding **: 09.06.2026 Commences at 10.30 Hrs. & Concludes at 15.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB

DIPR/CP/695/NR/2026-27

KKRTC CIVIL DIVISION, KALABURAGI
MSK Mill Road, Jewargi Cross Kalaburagi.

No: KKT/EEG/KLB/DB/ 134 /2026-27 Date: 15/05/2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 03/2026-27 ::

Through GOK e-procurement platform WWW.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Eligible Class-I Civil Contractors/Firms registered in Karnataka at KPWD/CPWD /MES are hereby invited for the below works in Two cover system through E-procurement portal mode.

1) Name of work: **Extention of main building with Covered Accomidation and Trimix concrete to bus station at Hallikhed (B) Dist Bidar,** 2) Amount put to Tender (Rs in lakhs): **250.00,** 3) Last date for receipt of tenders : **17-06-2026**

The tender schedule will be available after 21-05-2026 on the website mentioned as below. **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Telephone No. 08472-220663

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIPR/Kalaburagi/128/KSMC&A/2026-27

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Zilla Panchayat Building, 1st Floor, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/02/2026-27
Dated: 16-05-2026

KPPP TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the works Approved Under Various Head of Grants for the year 2026-27. Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 25-05-2026 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/707/Adverto/2026-27

Govt of Karnataka
Water Resources Department
IRRIGATION PROJECTS, CADA DIVISION, KALABURAGI
Address : Plot No.21,Kotanur Dhariapur Road, G.D.A. Layout 3rd Main Road, 'B' Block, **Kalaburagi** -585102 E-mail: eecadaipglb@gmail.com

No.EE/CADA/IP-Dn/MCAD/TND/PB-2&4/2026-27/121 Date: 15-05-2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal Only)

On behalf of the Government of Karnataka, tender is invited on **LUMPSUM TURN-KEY** basis in Two Cover System on Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal from registered Class -1 KPWD/CPWD Contractor for the following work.

1) Details of work : Selection of Irrigation Service Provider (ISP)/Contractor for the development of Pressurized Piped Irrigation Network (PPIN) and provision of irrigation services to **2145.00 Ha in Hattikuni Project in Yadgir taluka, Yadgir district, State:Karnataka** under Modernization of Command Area Development & Water Management (M-CADWM) scheme comprising Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Pressurized Piped Irrigation Network including Construction of Intake structure, Sump cum Pump house, Pumping machineries, Terminal Bay, Electrical substation, Electrical power line, SCADA & Automation, Solar Power Plant including power evacuation arrangements and other appurtenant works (Assisting in Non-structural activates) including Operation and Maintenance for the period of 5 years etc.,complete on Lumpsum Turn-key basis.**(Indent No.:GCADA/2026-27/LI/WORK_INDENT139)** 2) Name of the Scheme : Centrally Sponsored M-CADWM (SAMRIDHI) Scheme 3) Amount Put to tender : **Rs. 54,20,64,357.78** 4) Tender Processing Fee : As per Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. 5) EMD Amount : **Rs. 55.00 Lakhs,** 6) Construction Period : Construction period upto 30th September 2026 and 5 years O & M Period from the date of completion of the project 7) Tender Documents access from K-PP Portal : From 18.05.2026 on the website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** 8) Pre-bid Meeting Date & Place : 27.05.2026 at 11.00 Hours in O/o Executive Engineer, Irrigation Project, CADA Division, Kalaburagi. 9) The last date & time for receipt of tenders : 03-06-2026 Up to 17.00 Hours on KPP Portal, 10) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid 05-06-2026 at 11.00 Hours on KPP Portal 11) Opening of Financial bid : After approval of Technical Bids, the Financial Bids of the successful Bidders will be opened.

Any change in Calendar of events/addendums/corrigendum to tenders will not be published in News Papers and the same will be published only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

DIPR/Kalaburagi/138/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Projects, CADA Division,
Kalaburagi.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

INBRIEF

Cyberabad police arrest 6 for cyber scam worth ₹77 lakh

Six persons have been arrested from West Bengal by the Cyberabad police, Hyderabad, for running an interstate cyber fraud racket that siphoned off nearly ₹77.75 lakh through voice phishing calls, SIM manipulation, and OTP diversion frauds. The accused allegedly posed as bank officials and contacted victims under the guise of verification procedures. Investigators also recovered ₹15 lakh in cash, bank labels, and electronic devices from the residences of the accused.

M. Mukundan selected for ONV Literary Award for 2026

M. Mukundan has been selected for the 2026 ONV Literary Award, the annual award instituted in the name of late poet O.N.V. Kurup. Mr. Mukundan is a literary figure who stood as the protagonist in transforming Malayalam fiction and novel writing into a creative and expressive art form, the jury noted. The award, carrying a cash prize of ₹3 lakh and a citation, will be presented on May 27, the 95th birth anniversary of the late poet, in Thiruvananthapuram.

Adilabad sizzles at 44.5°C

Temperatures continued to rise across Telangana, with six districts recording maximum temperatures of 44°C or above on Friday, as per data from the Telangana Development Planning Society. Bhoraj in Adilabad emerged as the hottest location, recording a maximum temperature of 44.5°C. This was followed by 44.3°C in Asifabad (Kumaram Bheem Asifabad), Bheemgal (Nizamabad); 44.1°C in Mutharam (Peddapalli) and 44°C in Mallapur (Jagtial) and Kuntala (Nirmal).

PM SHRI set to be a tightrope walk for UDF govt. in Kerala

While CM-designate Satheesan had slammed the LDF when it signed on to the scheme in October last year, constrained funds from the Centre are likely to put the pressure on the UDF government

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Budget blues: With even payment of salaries for Samagra Shiksha staff becoming difficult, the UDF has its work cut out. FILE PHOTO

Among the many challenges the soon-to-be-formed United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala will face in the school education sector, none will be as daunting and keenly watched as the contentious PM SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) scheme of the Union government.

With the BJP government in West Bengal not wasting any time in inking the agreement for implementing PM SHRI after coming to power, all eyes are on Kerala, one of the States that have held out so far other than Tamil Nadu.

The stance of the UDF government on signing up for the scheme remains to be seen, particularly as the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) was left scrambling to save face in the wake of differences within the front on the issue coming out in the open.

The LDF government, after rejecting the scheme on the grounds of ideological opposition to the National Education Policy for three years, inked the agreement in October last year, only to see constituent Communist Party of India (CPI) alleging it had been kept in the dark about the significant decision.

While the deal was later put on hold, the LDF had claimed then that with the Centre linking funds to scheme implementation, it was the only way to secure pending funds. Nearly ₹1,100 crore of Samagra Shiksha funds to the State have been withheld by the Centre since 2023-24.

The UDF too is likely to face the same pressure. Chief Minister-designate V.D. Satheesan had slammed the LDF for capitulating to the Centre's pressure by signing on to the scheme which, he alleged, was an "ideological project to infuse majoritarian nationalism" into students.

With even payment of salaries for Samagra Shiksha staff becoming difficult owing to lack of funds, the UDF sure has its work cut out in the months ahead.

Minister's son held in POCSO Act case

Lavpreet Kaur
HYDERABAD

After a week-long manhunt, Bandi Bageerath, son of Union Minister for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, was arrested by Cyberabad police on Saturday night, in connection with a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case booked against him at the Petbasheerabad Police Station.

According to Cyberbad Police Commissioner M. Ramesh, he was apprehended at the TGPA junction at around 8 p.m. and was taken to the Narsingi police station in Telangana first. He was later shifted to Petbasheerbad for post arrest formalities.

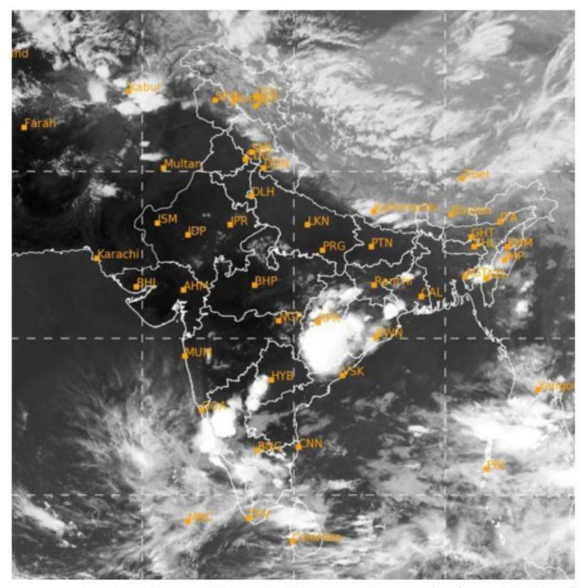
Officials said he would undergo mandatory medical examination procedures before being produced before a court for remand. The accused had remained untraceable since the case was registered on May 8 following a complaint lodged by the mother of a 17-year-old girl, who had accused him of sexually assaulting and emotionally manipulating her daughter over several months. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay in a statement issued late on Saturday said, "All are equal before the law. All should abide by the rule of law."

"In fact, I thought of handing him over at the police station soon after a complaint was lodged. The lawyers, after examining the evidence, said that the case will be quashed and bail will be granted. As a result, a slight delay occurred."

The arrest had made following the Cyberabad police's intensified efforts to trace him by deploying five special teams, carrying out searches at residences linked to him in Hyderabad and Karimnagar, and issuing a lookout circular to prevent him from leaving the country.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	13	34.8	22.7	Kozhikode	4	32.9	24.3
Ahmedabad	—	42.0	28.2	Kurnool	—	41.7	31.2
Aizawl	—	31.0	22.5	Lucknow	—	40.0	26.1
Allahabad	—	44.0	27.0	Madurai	—	34.5	25.5
Bengaluru	—	32.0	24.2	Mangaluru	—	31.4	28.2
Bhopal	—	42.4	27.8	Mumbai	—	34.1	28.1
Bhubaneswar	—	37.8	27.6	Mysuru	45	32.0	18.8
Chandigarh	—	39.0	22.4	New Delhi	—	40.8	24.8
Chennai	—	36.5	27.1	Patna	—	39.1	26.9
Coimbatore	—	33.0	23.6	Port Blair	5	30.7	26.4
Dehradun	—	35.8	20.1	Puducherry	75.5	34.1	26.0
Gangtok	74	19.9	16.0	Pune	—	40.8	25.6
Goa	—	34.6	28.0	Raipur	27	40.4	28.0
Guwahati	10	30.6	23.7	Ranchi	—	35.9	24.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	24.0	Shillong	7	25.1	15.0
Hyderabad	—	39.8	29.7	Shimla	—	28.6	17.5
Imphal	7	30.2	19.3	Srinagar	—	26.9	12.4
Jaipur	—	41.4	28.8	Thiruvananthapuram	3	30.8	24.0
Kochi	—	30.4	23.4	Tiruchi	1.1	35.1	26.0
Kohima	—	23.0	16.0	Vijayawada	—	38.6	28.8
Kolkata	6.2	36.1	24.6	Visakhapatnam	—	36.2	28.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.47	..87	18	 57	71	
Bengaluru	.19	..13	19	... 120	...120	
Chennai	...4	5	42	 35	55	
Delhi	.35	116	41	... 204	...234	
Hyderabad	.19	..33	57	 80	...115	
Kolkata	.12	..25	10	 51	56	
Lucknow	...7	..40	47	... 124	...103	
Mumbai	.29	6	12	 63	67	
Pune	..—	..54	71	 23	50	
Visakhapatnam	...7	..15	..9	 14	40	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 303 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

RAYALASEEMA UNIVERSITY
KURNOOL – 518007 (A.P.) INDIA

CORRIGENDUM to Recruitment Notification for Assistant Professor Positions for Regular Vacancies
(Notification No. 01/RU/Regular/ T.Estt./Recrut./Assistant Professors/2026, Dt. 15.05.2026)

In partial modification of the Recruitment Notification cited above, the department-wise allocation of Assistant Professor (Regular) vacancies is hereby revised as detailed below:

S.No.	Name of Department	Earlier	Now Notified	Remarks
1)	Biotechnology	01	00	Withdrawn
2)	Botany	02	03	Revised
3)	Civil Engineering	02	04	Revised
4)	Commerce	02	00	Withdrawn
5)	Mathematics	02	03	Revised
6)	Mechanical Engineering	02	00	Withdrawn
7)	Operations Research & Statistical Quality Control (ORASQC)	02	03	Revised

The allocation in respect of all other departments remains unchanged

The total number of vacancies (38) remains unchanged. The revised detailed notification containing the revised department-wise and category-wise vacancy breakup, has been uploaded on the University website: https://rukap.edu.in/ and https://apuniversitiesrecruitment.apcfss.in.
Receiving of the online applications will commence from 18.05.2026.
The last date for submission of online application is 08.06.2026 (by 5.00 pm IST) and the last date for submission of hardcopy is 15.06.2026 (by 5.00 pm IST).
University Call Center: 9494410216 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
Date: 16.05.2026 Sd/- REGISTRAR

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Shantinagara,
Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Bengaluru 560 027.
Bid No. BMRCL/SE0048/2025-26 Dated: 16.05.2026

e-Tender through KPP Portal

Subject: AWARDING LICENSE FOR OPERATING PARKING LOT AT NAGASANDRA METRO STATION

BID SCHEDULE

Dates of Bid	16th May 2026 to 01st June 2026
Address for purchase	Through KPP Portal.
Pre Bid meeting	27th May2026 at 03:00 PM
Bid Submission Due Date	01st June 2026 upto 4:00 PM
Opening of Tender	02nd June 2026 at 5:00 PM

Brief details of the tender terms and conditions are uploaded in the BMRCL website.

Sd/-Deputy General Manager (C)

SANJEEVINI-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society
Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department
Office of the Mission Director, Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall
Bengaluru-560002 email: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Subject: Inviting Applications under Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (DDU-GKY 2.0) project in the State of Karnataka

Sanjeevini - Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS), under the Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department, Government of Karnataka is implementing Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). Sanjeevini – KSRLPS invites proposals from the Agencies who are registered under Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and are having valid Permanent Registration Number (PRN) for the implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameena Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (both Regular and Captive Employment) program in the State of Karnataka. The agencies having expertise in skill ecosystem and willingness to impart high quality training and provide placement opportunities are encouraged to submit their proposals. For detailed information and Bank details for application fee you may visit the portal **https://ksrlps.karnataka.gov.in.**

The last date for submitting the proposal along with application fee will be on or before **16.06.2026.** For more information and program guidelines you may visit the MoRD portal **kaushal.rural.gov.in.**

For any queries, you may write to ddugkysrlmkarnataka@gmail.com and nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

Sd/-
Mission Director
National Livelihood Mission
Karnataka

DIPR/CP/712/CCL/2026-27

Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore.

No. 05/2026-27 Dated: 15.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under **"Kppp"** Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of **KW2, KW3 and KW4 for 09 works**, minimum tender **amount Rs 40.00 lakhs,** maxmium tender amount **Rs 200.00 Lakhs** and EMD amount minimum **Rs 0.64 lakhs** and maximum amount **Rs 2.41 lakhs**. The other tender details are given below.

1) Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: **Date: 02.06.2026, 5-30 PM.**

2) Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: Date: 03.06.2026, 5-30 PM.**

3) The bids will be opened: **Date: 05.06.2026, 11-00 AM.**

Note: Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in KPP Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWD Division, Mysore

DIPR/Mysore/194/SSC/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹಾಸನ

HASSAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HASSAN (An Autonomous Institute under the Dept of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka) SRI CHAMARAJENDRA HOSPITAL CAMPUS, HASSAN

Website: https://himshassan.karnataka.gov.in/
Phone/Fax No.08172-231699, 231599,
Email:directorhims@yahoo.com
No : HIMS/ACC/SCT/1/2026-ACCT-HIMS-HSN
Date: 13.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement only) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

HIMS, Hassan, invites Re-tender for supply of Tabs and Other item & Medical Books to SC/ST Students of HIMS Teaching Hospital, Hassan, Under CPRT Basis from the manufacturer or authorized dealers in two cover bid system as per KTTP Act-1999. Sl.No.Name of the Equipments 1)Tabs Qty 205 EMD 67,000/- 2)Stethoscope (for Medical Students) Qty 39 EMD 25,000/- 3)Stethoscope (for other students) Qty 138 EMD 25,000/- 4)Emergency table Lamp Qty 39 EMD 25,000/- 5)B P Monitor Qty 177 EMD 25,000/- 6)Apron Qty 233 EMD 25,000/- 7)Medical Books Qty Refer Tender document EMD 50,000/- The Supplier can have access to e-tender documents from 15.05.2026 through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) as fixed by e-portal. Last date for submission of tender application is up to 29.05.2026 5:00 p.m,. For further details contact the undersigned in the office during working hours or through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Administrative officer, Hassan Institute of Medical Science, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/142/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

AMARAVATI GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (AGICL)
2nd Floor, APCRDA Office, Rayapudi, Thulluru Mandal, (A.P.)
NIT. No. 05/MD/CE/AGICL/2026 Dt.16-05-2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

S.No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)
1.	Construction of Shell & Core for Twin Office Towers (T1 & T2) at Amaravati Quantum Valley, Amaravati through Design & Build Lumpsum (% Percentage Tender) Contract System	Rs. 958.40 Crs
2.	Investigation, Design and Construction of Civil Structure Works (Spire, Parking Ring, Roof & Approach Bridges over Palavagu) for the Legislative Assembly Building in Amaravati Capital City on Lumpsum (% Percentage Tender) Contract System	Rs. 532.92 Crs

The bids can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **18-05-2026**. For further details, please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.agicl.org**.

Sd/- Managing Director, AGICL, Amaravati.

Government of Karnataka
Directorate of Child Protection
District Child Protection Unit, Shivamogga

Short-Term Re e-Tender Notice - Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KPPP)

Short-Term Re Tender is invited through KPP Portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999, Rules 2000 for availing Human Resource Services as mentioned in Annexure – 1 for a period of one year required to Government Boys Children Home, Government Girls Children Home, Government Observation Homes and Government Special Adoption Organizations coming under the jurisdiction of Directorate of Child Protection and District Child Protection Unit, Shivamogga for the year 2026-27. Interested, eligible Tenderers can submit Tender Bids through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 15.05.2026 to 22.05.2026 up to 4.00 PM. E-Procurement Tender No.: DCP/2026-27/SE0261/CALL-2 Date: 15.05.2026. For further information contact District Child Protection Unit, Alkola, Shivamogga on phone no.:08182-295709 during office hours.

Sd/- District Child Protection Officer,
District Child Protection Unit, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/Ksmca/26-27/75/05/245

Government of Karnataka
Office of the The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363,
email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&SD/MDY/MVSO&M_TENDER/2026-27/
Dated: 13.05.2026

1. Short term Tender Notification NO-01/2026-27 (Two-Cover System) - (kppp portal)

On behalf of Governor of karnataka, The E.E, R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited tender for Operation and maintainence of T.M HOSUR, HOSAHALLI & PALAHALLI Multi village Water Supply Schemes in Srirangapatna Taluk in Mandya District from eligible bidders Pre-Bid Meeting Dt:21.05.2026 Time:11:00 AM (Place: O/O EE, RDWSD, Mandya), Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids:-25.05.2026 Time :05:00 PM, Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:-26.05.2026 Time:05:05 PM, Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening:-30.05.2026 Time: 11:00 AM. Amount Put to tender Maximum:Rs.391.81Lakhs. (All Three MVS O&M Schemes are put together) More details can be obtained through kppp portal of Govt of karnataka www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or from this office during working hours. Phone No: 08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Englheer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division, Mandya.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/129/2026–27

Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga.

Office of the Estate Officer, Main Campus, Iruvakki - 577412 Shivamogga District.
ph: 9480838979 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eo@uahs.edu.in
No.:KSNUAHS(S)/EO/T.N.-05/2026-27 Date: 14.05.2026

Tender Notification
(Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

Tender is invited from Contractors Registered in with PWD for implementation of Civil Works at Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Main Campus of Shivamogga at Iruvakki, Mudigere and Hiriyuru College and Research Centre at Baavikere & Bramhavara. Tender Notification, Schedule and details of Tender are available in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Tender Schedule Dates are as below:

1. Last date and time for submission of Tender: 25.05.2026 Up to 4.00 PM **2.** Date and time of opening the Technical Bid: 26. 05.2026 At 4.30 PM **3.** Date and time of opening the Financial Bid: 29. 05.2026 At 10.00 AM

Details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. Estate Officer, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Sagar Taluk, Shivamogga - 577412 can be contacted on all working days, Phone No.: 9480838979.

Sd/- Estate Officer, University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Shivamogga - - 577412

DIPR/smg/Ksmca/26-27/70/05/246

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಅರಸೀಕೆರೆ
ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08174–232203
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಅರಸೀ)/178/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ 13/05/2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 2ನೇ ಕರೆ
(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

ಸಮಿತಿಯು 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾ.ಕ್ರಿಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ, ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Documents KW-,3 Clause 3 (with latest amendments) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: 1)ಗಂಡಸಿ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ 04ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆಯನ್ನು ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (APMC/2025-6/RD/WORK_INDENT874/ CALL-2)ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 83.20 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.(ರೂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)1,66,500=00 ಕೆಲಸ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿ 03 ತಿಂಗಳು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 26/05/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 27/05/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ, ಅರಸೀಕೆರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/–ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ, ಅರಸೀಕೆರೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/137/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

From Page One

Call for President's Rule amid Manipur protests

"The continued captivity of innocent civilians was not merely unlawful detention but an act of terror against a people," KIM president Ch. Ajang Khongsai told the gathering.

During the "mass rally for justice" in Churachandpur, the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR) and other civil society groups submitted a memorandum to Mr. Shah, condemning the killing of three Kuki-Zo religious leaders and raising concerns over continued violence in the region. The KWOHR alleged that the ongoing violence was linked to "proxy attacks" carried out against the Kuki-Zo people, and expressed concern over repeated incidents of violence, displacement, and insecurity in the region.

The KWOHR called for the re-imposition of President's Rule in Manipur, strengthening of security deployment in Kuki-Zo areas, a high-level investigation into the killings and related incidents of violence, and the fulfilment of the long-standing demand for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people under the Constitution of India.

Full list of Ministers by this evening: Satheesan

Other names from the Congress that were doing the rounds on Saturday included KPCC president Sunny Joseph, K. Muraleedharan, P.C. Vishnunadh, Chandy Oommen, M. Liju, and Bindu Krishna.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) is reportedly bidding for five ministerial berths, the same number the party held in the last UDF government headed by Oommen Chandy from 2011 to 2016. Mr. Satheesan held discussions with senior IUML leaders, after which IUML general secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty said the UDF could disclose its decisions only after discussions with all the front partners are completed.

The IUML's parliamentary party meet is scheduled for Sunday morning in Thiruvananthapuram, after which there will be more clarity on the IUML Ministers. Names being suggested include Mr. Kunhalikutty and N. Shamsudeen.

Another UDF member, the Kerala Congress (Joseph), is understood to be demanding two seats in the Cabinet, while the Communist Marxist Party's C.P. John is also reportedly being discussed as a possible contender.

India rejects CoA's award on Indus Treaty

The CoA is a five-member arbitral panel, chaired by Sean D. Murphy, constituted in January 2023. It was set up at Pakistan's request after Islamabad challenged the design of India's Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects. India has refused to participate, arguing that the technical questions involved fall within the remit of a Neutral Expert appointed in parallel by the World Bank.

"In its August 2025 Award on Issues of General Interpretation, the CoA ruled largely in Pakistan's favour, restricting how India calculates permissible pondage for run-of-river plants and narrowing the design latitude available under the Treaty.

The court most recently concluded a three-day hearing on April 28, 2026 on Pakistan's request for interim measures and on the status of the Treaty itself. A PCA press release said Pakistan was represented by Acting Co-Agent Syed Haider Shah along with counsel including Daniel Bethlehem and Philippa Webb, while India did not respond to an invitation to participate and did not appear. India placed the IWT in abeyance in April 2025 following the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed.

Pune biology teacher held in NEET case

In the last 24 hours, the CBI has conducted searches at six locations across the country and seized laptops, bank statements, and mobile phones. The Pune-based chemistry lecturer P.V. Kulkarni was held on the charge of leaking chemistry questions. The agency alleged that he had access to the question papers as he was involved in the examination process on behalf of the NTA.

During the last week of April, he had also allegedly mobilised students with the help of Ms. Waghmare, a beauty salon owner. The "kingpin" conducted special coaching classes for them at his residence in Pune and dictated questions, answer options, and correct responses. The questions reportedly matched exactly with those in the actual examination paper.

The Centre on Saturday appointed two Joint Secretaries and Joint Directors in the NTA, which is under the heat over the NEET-UG paper leak.

Anuja Bapat, a 1998-batch officer of the Indian Statistical Service, and Ruchita Vij, a 2004-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes), will be the new Joint Secretaries in the NTA for five years, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Akash Jain, an Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officer, and Aditya Rajendra Bhojgadhiya, an Indian Audit and Accounts Service officer, have been named joint directors in the NTA, the Ministry said in a separate order.

Hindu groups perform puja at Bhojshala amid security

A day after HC said the disputed complex was a temple, ASI issues directions to provide Hindu communities 'unrestricted access', says conservation efforts should be ensured at the monument

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Hindu groups performed worship at the Bhojshala complex in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday with several Hindu devotees thronging the historic site, a day after the High Court declared it a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati and a Sanskrit learning centre.

New norm: People pray inside the Bhojshala complex in Dhar on Saturday, after the High Court declared the site a Hindu temple. PTI

Members of the Hindu Front for Justice, which represented the Hindu side in the court, Bhoj Utsav Samiti, anmd the local people performed *Aarti* at the Bhojshala complex even as the situation remained peaceful in Dhar town and nearby areas amid heavy security arrangements put in place.

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) acknowledged the High Court's verdict and issued directions for its implementation.

In the order dated May 16, the ASI said the Hindu community "shall have an unrestricted access to the Bhojshala Complex in connection with the ancient practice of learning and worship of Goddess Saraswati".

The order said the time of entry for visitors and devotees, and permissible activities related to learning and worship would be determined by the superintending archeologist of the ASI, Bhopal, in consultation with the Dhar district administration, while ensuring the conservation and protection of the monument under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.

"The Bhojshala Complex shall continue to be a protected monument under the AMASR Act, 1958. This order shall be in supersession of all previous orders issued in this regard," said the order issued by A.M.V. Subramanyam, Director, Monument 1, ASI.

While Hindu groups and leaders have termed the High Court's verdict "historic and the result of a 700-year struggle", Muslim representatives termed it "one-sided" and said they would challenge it in the Supreme Court.

'Will move SC'

Abdul Samad, president of the Maulana Kamaluddin Welfare Society, which represented the Muslim side in the court, said, "The court's decision is completely one-sided. We will approach the Supreme Court regarding this matter. In fact, the Hindu side has already reached the Supreme Court [with a caveat] before us, which itself clearly shows that they also had doubts about the judgment and about the intent of the High Court."

Mr. Samad also raised questions at Hindu community members performing worship at the site.

"Nowhere in that order, not even remotely, is it written [in the verdict] that the ASI or the Hindu side is permitted to conduct daily worship at the site. The ASI is acting in direct contravention of the established rules. It is also not stated that the offering of *namaz* should be discontinued and start daily worship," he told reporters.

A caveat has been filed in the Supreme Court by a petitioner from the Hindu side, urging it that no order be passed on any appeal against the High Court's verdict without hearing its side.

Mosque committee to move SC against Bhojshala verdict

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

The Madhya Pradesh High Court verdict on the Kamal Maula-Bhojshala dispute has left the Muslim bodies shaken and uncertain of the way ahead. While the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has rejected the verdict, which declared the place a Saraswati temple and asked the mosque petitioners to look for a separate piece of land, the Kamal Maula Mosque Committee will challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court. The move has the blessings of the AIMPLB.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Hind is looking "at a possibility of appeal". Its leadership feels "this case must not be viewed in isolation but as part of a broader trend wherein disputes over religious sites are being revisited, disregarding the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991".

Around the same time, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind held a conference in collaboration with the South Asian Minorities Lawyers Association in which a report was presented on the Babri Masjid verdict and the Places of Worship Act, 1991. The report reiterated that the 1991 Act holds central importance in protecting India's secular structure and constitutional stability by preventing the reopening of historical religious disputes.

The report presents an analysis of important Supreme Court judgments, particularly the *Ismail Faruqui* case (1994) and the *M. Siddiq* (Ayodhya Verdict 2019), arguing that the interpretation in the *Ismail Faruqui* judgment – which stated that a mosque is not an essential part of Islam – had deep implications for subsequent cases.

"Despite Muslims responding to the Supreme Court verdict with constitutional commitment, fresh disputes concerning Gyanvapi, Mathura Eidgah, Kamal Maula Mosque, and other religious places were raised, turning the issue into a matter concerning India's constitutional identity," Jamiat president Mahmood Madani said.

JIH president Sadatullah Husaini said the verdict would have "grave implications" for the "credibility of judicial system... and religious freedom".

NCB strikes at drug syndicate with first-ever seizure of Captagon; Syrian national arrested

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an international drug trafficking syndicate with the seizure of 227.7 kg of Captagon estimated at about ₹182 crore. A Syrian national allegedly involved in the network was arrested. The contraband was allegedly being routed through India to West Asian countries, particularly Saudi Arabia.

Big catch: The NCB busted an international drug trafficking syndicate, leading to the seizure of 227.7 kg of Captagon. ANI

The visa of the arrested accused, Alabras Ahmad, had expired and he had been staying in the country illegally.

Commending the NCB for the breakthrough, Union Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X on Saturday: "Modi govt. is resolved for a 'Drug-Free India'. Glad to share that through 'Operation Ragepill', our agencies have achieved the first-ever seizure of Captagon, the so-called 'jihadi drug', worth ₹182 crore."

Zero tolerance: Shah

"The busting of the drug consignment destined for the Middle East and the arrest of a foreign national stand out as shining examples of our commitment to zero tolerance against drugs. I repeat, we will clamp down on every gram of drugs entering India or leaving the country using our territory as the transit route. Kudos to the brave and vigilant warriors of the NCB," he said. Sharing details of the case, the NCB said it received inputs from a foreign drug law enforcement agency about India being used as a transit for trafficking of Captagon. Subsequently, the Bureau zeroed in on a house in Delhi's Neb Sarai. A search of the house on May 11 led to the seizure of about 31.5 kg of the stuff in tablet form.

Heading to Saudi Arabia

The contraband was concealed in a commercial chapati-cutting machine that was intended to be exported to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. "Preliminary investigation revealed that the Syrian national had entered India on a tourist visa on November 15, 2024, but his visa expired on January 12, 2025. He was illegally overstaying in India and had taken the said house in Neb Sarai on rent," said the NCB.

Questioning of the accused led to further seizure of over 196 kg of Captagon powder from a container in the Container Facilitation Station (CFS) at Gujarat's Mundra on May 14. It had been imported from Syria, with sheep wool as the declared consignment. Initial findings suggested that the container was to be sent to West Asia, particularly Saudi Arabia and its neighbouring countries, where Captagon abuse has emerged as a serious law enforcement and public health concern. The main ingredient in Captagon is fenethylline, an addictive synthetic amphetamine-type stimulant.

Robert Vadra

Vadra secures pre-arrest bail in Shikohpur land deal case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday granted pre-arrest bail to businessman Robert Vadra in a money laundering case linked to the Shikohpur land transaction under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Special Judge (Prevention of Corruption Act) Sushant Changotra of the Rouse Avenue Court granted the relief to Mr. Vadra on a surety bond of ₹50,000.

Mr. Vadra appeared before the court after summons were issued to him and eight others following the court taking cognisance of the ED's prosecution complaint. The case originates from an FIR registered by the Gurugram Police in 2008 over alleged irregularities in a land transaction involving 3.53 acres in Shikohpur village, Gurugram, Haryana.

According to the allegations, Mr. Vadra, through his company M/s Sky Light Hospitality Pvt. Ltd., acquired the land from M/s Onkareshwar Properties Pvt. Ltd. for ₹7.5 crore. Investigators alleged that the acquisition involved false declarations and that a commercial licence for the property was obtained through influence within the State administration.

The transaction took place during the Congress-led government in Haryana headed by then Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. In 2012, Sky Light Hospitality sold the land to real estate firm DLF for ₹58 crore.

NIA files chargesheet in Cambodia-linked trafficking case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The syndicate lured Indian youth to Cambodia on the pretext of offering jobs

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against five persons, including absconding "mastermind" Anand Kumar Singh, in a case of human trafficking and "cyber slavery" in Cambodia.

Three of the accused named in the chargesheet – Abhay Nath Dubey and Rohit Yadav from Uttar Pradesh; and Abhiranjan Kumar from Bihar – were arrested in February on their arrival in Delhi from Cambodia. The fifth person named Prahlad Kumar Singh is out on bail.

The syndicate was involved in luring Indian youth to Cambodia on the pretext of legitimate jobs and lucrative salaries, as part of an organised human trafficking racket.

"The victims' passports were seized and they were forced to work for scam companies in Cambodia, with any resistance on their part met with mental and physical torture, including electric shocks, forceful confinement, denial of food and water, etc.," said the agency.

The NIA alleged that Anand was the kingpin, involved in the recruitment of the youth through various sub-agents and travel agents in India. He worked with his associates in Cambodia to illegally send the victims to that country. He charged $2,000-3,000 for each person "sold" to a fake company. Efforts are under way to track down the other members of the syndicate, said the agency.

CBSE makes three-language study compulsory for Class 9 students beginning July 1

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made the study of three languages, including at least two Indian languages, compulsory for Class 9 students beginning July 1, according to a circular issued by the Board.

The move is part of the CBSE's alignment of its Scheme of Studies with the National Education Policy, 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, 2023.

The May 15 circular said students opting for a foreign language may do so as the third language only if the other two are native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language.

"With effect from July 1, 2026, for Class IX, the study of three languages (R1, R2, R3) shall be compulsory, with at least two languages being native Indian languages," it stated.

Students may opt for a foreign language only if the other two are Indian languages.

The CBSE said to keep the focus on learning and to reduce undue pressure on students, no Board examination shall be conducted for the third language at the Class-10 level.

"All assessments for R3 shall be entirely school-based and internal. The performance of students in R3 will be duly reflected in the CBSE certificate. It is clarified that no student will be barred from appearing in the Class X Board Examinations due to R3. Sample question papers, rubrics for internal assessment will be shared by the Board shortly," it added.

The Board also asked schools to update their third language offerings for Classes 6 to 9 on the OASIS portal by June 30.

Schools facing a shortage of qualified native Indian language teachers may use interim measures, such as inter-school resource sharing, virtual or hybrid teaching support, engagement of retired language teachers and qualified postgraduates, the circular said.

It further said relaxations would be provided to the Children With Special Needs in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

‘BRICS will reach a common position, generate consensus’

Diversity of positions is a positive aspect of BRICS because it’s a platform for consultation and political articulation; what we are seeing now is the evolution of the organisation, says Foreign Minister of Brazil; on the large majority of issues, we all have the same position; and I believe those on which we don’t have consensus now, we may have later this year, when the summit happens in India, he adds

INTERVIEW

Mauro Vieira

Suhasini Haidar

The BRICS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Delhi, chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, ended on Friday with some heat, but not much light in terms of a joint statement. Instead, in a detailed 63-paragraph Chair Statement, BRICS Ministers recorded their support for a number of Indian initiatives, the Palestinian cause and the two-state solution.

However, there was no reconciliation on positions taken by Iranian and UAE Ministers over the war in West Asia that began on February 28.

In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*, Mauro Vieira, Foreign Minister of Brazil, which hosted the BRICS Summit in 2025, explains why, despite the differences, BRICS continues to be an important international grouping.

How broad and wide are the differences between BRICS members? Is it possible to bridge them now?

I think the diversity of positions is a positive aspect of BRICS because it’s a platform for consultation and political articulation, and what we are seeing now is the evolution of BRICS.

We had at the beginning five countries, and now, two years after the expansion, we are still adapting to new methods of work and new kinds of interactions for developing countries.

But, I think that on the large majority of issues, we all have the same position. And I believe that those [issues] on which we don’t have [consensus] now, we may have them later this year [September 10-11], when the summit will happen here in India, under the presidency of Prime Minister Modi.

Even so, would you say the Iran-UAE differences have brought BRICS consensus to a standstill?

That is the main issue. But it also proves the importance of this group in that, [it is] where you have two countries that have totally different positions, and in a state of war, of military action, one against the other.

But I think that this is also the richness of this grouping, because you have this place and the space to negotiate and talk.

BRICS is also important to have a dialogue with other countries and other groupings, like the G-7 in the developed world.

So, I am very confident that we will reach a common position, and that this platform of negotiation will generate the consensus that’s necessary.

Mr. Jaishankar said that the new BRICS members [Iran, the UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia] need to understand and follow the consensus of old BRICS members [Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa]. In hindsight, do you think, the process of BRICS expansion was pushed through too quickly?

The original five members of BRICS grouping had been together for nearly 15 years [BRIC began in 2009, South Africa joined a year later to make it BRICS] before we all agreed to the expansion.

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

One of the important issues was that we should share the same positions on international affairs, such as reform of the [UN] Security Council, which had our consensus, and it has to continue that way with the new members too.

During the BRICS summit in Rio, there were some very strong paragraphs about the conflict in Gaza and on Israel-Palestine issues — are you hopeful of similar language this time?

We hope that we can work from here to September, with all the BRICS, and arrive at a text that all agree with. And this is the characteristic of democratic and diplomatic movements and organisations — we have to negotiate and arrive at a common text.

For Brazil, we have criticised enormously the attacks of Israel against civilian populations in Gaza. It led to the death of thousands, including Brazilian citizens, even young children. Others have been imprisoned, and one starved to death. So, we cannot stay silent. We have to criticise. But of course, each country has a different take on this, and some like us are more affected [than others].

Consensus was also difficult when Brazil hosted the G-20 in 2024, and the BRICS in 2025. Do you think the new conflicts and actions by world powers, including the U.S. in Venezuela, the U.S. and Israel in Iran, and earlier Russia in Ukraine, are making it more difficult to forge joint statements?

Well, this is destabilising the whole world. You just have to look at the inflation and the cost of oil that’s rising globally. We live in a globalised world. In the past, conflicts remained regional, but now everything is globalised, and I think there’s a huge impact.

Since the beginning of U.S. President Donald Trump’s second tenure, he has issued statements against BRICS and threatened BRICS members with 100% sanctions. Why do you think BRICS is targeted and seen as anti-West?

The only thing I can say is that BRICS is not against the United States or the West or anyone, and the proof is that we have countries from different parts and continents of the world. BRICS is a grouping of developing countries trying to develop common policies to promote the development of these countries, to have more trade, and to combat many different difficulties in these countries.

Brazilian President Lula once spoke about the idea of de-dollarisation, alternative payment mechanisms...

That was a misunderstanding. President Lula never spoke of de-dollarisation or the creation of a BRICS currency. He only spoke about mechanisms of payments in local currencies, which exists between many countries.

They have the option to use local currencies or to go through the big payment systems in Europe and the United States. But nothing is against anyone. It’s in favour of the members, in favour of development and social policies, initiatives in the area of medicine, and so on.

PM stresses close ties as he addresses the diaspora and meets Dutch royalty

India’s aspirations no longer limited to its borders, Modi tells Indian community in the Netherlands; in the second leg of his five-nation tour, he meets the King and Queen of the Netherlands and ‘exchanges perspectives on boosting ties’; the country hands back Chola dynasty copper plates to India

Press Trust of India
THE HAGUE

Describing India as a “land of opportunities”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday that the country was undergoing an “unprecedented transformation” and its aspirations were “no longer limited to its borders”.

Addressing the Indian community in The Hague, the Prime Minister said that India was dreaming big and its youth aspired to reach the sky.

Mr. Modi arrived in the Netherlands on Friday after a brief stopover in the UAE on the second leg of his five-nation tour to further deepen bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, defence and renewable energy. The countries in the itinerary include Sweden, Norway, and Italy.

He met King of the Netherlands Willem–Alexander and Queen Maxima and discussed issues of mutual interest. He also held wide-ranging talks with his Dutch counterpart, Rob Jetten, focusing on trade, investment, and critical technologies.

“Met His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Máxima at the Royal Palace. It was wonderful exchanging perspectives on boosting India-Netherlands friendship across key sectors like technology, innovation, sustainable growth, commerce and water resources,” Mr. Modi posted on X after the meeting.

He said that India and the Netherlands were “connected by shared interests and a shared belief in building a future-ready planet”.

Both sides noted the close cooperation in the areas of sustainability, climate action, digital technology, innovation, fintech and blue economy, and expressed commitment towards further strengthening India–Netherlands relations, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said in a post on X.

The Prime Minister was paying a second trip to the country after a 2017 tour and comes at what officials described as an “important juncture” in India–Netherlands ties.

Warm welcome: Narendra Modi waves at the crowd during a community event in The Hague, Netherlands, on Saturday. ANI

Officials in the Ministry of External Affairs said the visit carries a “rich and substantive agenda” and is expected to consolidate the strategic dimensions of the partnership that have emerged through sustained engagement between the two countries.

India and the Netherlands have significantly expanded cooperation in recent years beyond traditional sectors such as trade, investment and the priority areas of water, agriculture and health.

Saying that India offers immense opportunities, Mr. Modi invited Dutch companies to design, innovate and manufacture in the country. In his remarks at the CEO Roundtable, the Prime Minister said today’s India is a symbol of scale and stability and no country in the world can match its speed in infrastructure, clean energy, and connectivity. This is why India is contributing 17% to global growth, he said.

Mr. Modi, accompanied by Mr. Jetten, also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Tata Electronics and ASML, a Dutch multinational corporation, to support semiconductor fabrication in Dholera, Gujarat.

The Netherlands also handed back 11th–century Chola dynasty copper plates to India, in an event attended by Mr. Modi, signifying the strengthening of ties between the two countries.

The 21 copper plates, belonging to the times of Rajaraja Chola I and brought to the Netherlands in the 1700s from present-day Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu which was then under Dutch control, are considered the most significant surviving records of the Chola dynasty and are among the important artefacts of Tamil heritage held anywhere outside the country. India has been pursuing the return of the plates, known in the Netherlands as the Leiden Plates, since 2012.

Trust and transparency

Highlighting that India and the Netherlands are working together to create a trusted, transparent, and future-ready supply chain, Mr. Modi told the Indian diaspora in his over 40-minute speech that the Netherlands would become the “natural gateway” for Indian businesses to enter Europe, and added that the Indian diaspora could serve as a trusted bridge in this journey.

“From energy security to water security, the Netherlands and India are working together. Our cooperation on green hydrogen is very important. And the historic trade agreement between India and the EU will further strengthen the partnership between India and the Netherlands,” he added. He urged all “friends of India” in the European country to increase cooperation with India as much as possible. “This will also increase India’s potential, and the return on your investments will also be higher. This is Modi’s guarantee,” he said. The Prime Minister assured the diaspora that the Government of India stood firmly behind every Indian living abroad and remained committed to their welfare.

NEET row: PM must sack the Education Minister, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)–UG paper leak row, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleging that the scandal was the result of a “money-making racket”. In a video statement on X, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the leaked question paper had been circulated on WhatsApp two days before the examination, destroying years of hard work of 22 lakh students.

“The Prime Minister should immediately seek the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan*ji*,” Mr. Gandhi said. “This is a nexus between the RSS, BJP and Vice-Chancellors of universities who owe their allegiance to the RSS. It’s a result of the nexus to make money,” he added.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that under the BJP government, “Amrit Kaal” was proving to be “Mrit Kaal (era of death)” for students preparing for competitive exams, referring to reports of suicides by NEET aspirants following the row.

Rahul Gandhi

Mr. Kharge alleged more than 90 exam papers had been leaked during the Modi government’s tenure, adversely affecting over 90 million students and their families. “The Union Education Minister must resign immediately,” Mr. Kharge added.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh alleged the Education Ministry’s “incompetence is matched only by its Minister’s arrogance”. He cited controversies ranging from the NCERT textbook row, UGC’s draft regulations on Vice-Chancellor appointments, NAAC bribery scandal, ICHR controversy, vacancies in higher educational institutions and paper leaks.

Youth are pillars of country, remarks were at those with ‘fake’ degrees: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chief Justice of India (CJI), Surya Kant, on Saturday issued a statement clarifying that his oral remarks made a day earlier regarding “attacks” on institutions were not directed at youth of the country, but at individuals who had entered professions such as law and media using “fake and bogus degrees”.

“I am pained to read how a section of the media has misquoted my oral observations made during the hearing of a frivolous case yesterday. What I had criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar [legal profession] with the aid of fake and bogus degrees. Similar persons have sneaked into the media, social media, and other noble professions as well, and hence, they are like parasites,” the Chief Justice said in the statement on Saturday. He maintained that reports suggesting he had criticised unemployed youth were “totally baseless”. “...It is not an exaggeration to say that Indian youth have great regard and respect for me, and I too see them as the pillars of a developed India,” he added.

CJI Surya Kant

The statement came a day after he made strong oral remarks while hearing a plea seeking contempt proceedings over alleged delay by the Delhi High Court in implementing the Supreme Court’s guidelines on the designation of senior advocates.

Refusing to entertain the plea, the Bench, also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, expressed concern over the growing number of lawyers allegedly possessing fake or dubious degrees and observed that a probe was warranted.

“There are parasites in society who attack the system... they don’t get any employment and don’t have any place in the profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, some of them become RTI activists, and they start attacking everyone,” the Chief Justice had orally remarked.

Make NTA statutory body accountable to Parliament: doctors’ front moves SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The United Doctors Front on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking transition of the National Testing Agency (NTA) from a registered society to a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to ensure constitutional and parliamentary accountability.

The doctors’ body said the 2026 paper leak was part of a “recurring, systemic, and catastrophic failure” of the NTA in conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)–UG”.

Youth Congress workers protest NEET paper leak in Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

“The NTA’s current legal status as an autonomous society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 creates an accountability vacuum,” the petition filed through advocates Ritu Reniwal and Mahendra said.

The doctors’ body said unlike the Union Public Service Commission or the Staff Selection Commission, the NTA was not directly answerable to Parliament. It operated under the Ministry of Education, which shielded the agency from direct CAG audits and mandatory Parliamentary committee probes.

“The recurrence proves that cosmetic administrative tweaks and expert committees like the K. Radhakrishnan Committee are inadequate without a fundamental legislative overhaul,” the petition said.

The doctors’ front sought the dissolution of the NTA in its current form and the enactment of a Parliamentary Act to create a new testing authority.

“This statutory shift would ensure direct Parliamentary oversight – the chairperson and functions would be defined by law, making it directly answerable to the legislature. This would ensure financial transparency through mandatory end-to-end CAG audits, statutory penalties for leaks and a legally mandated grievance redressal mechanism, while eliminating outsourcing ambiguities by restricting the role of private vendors in core examination functions,” the petition said.

INBRIEF

Adhikari aide's murder: CBI searches multiple locations

The CBI conducted searches on Saturday at multiple locations in connection with the murder of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's aide Chandrakant Rath, officials said. The search operation started late on Friday night, and continued till the early hours of Saturday, they said. The CBI has taken over the probe into Rath's murder from the West Bengal Police following a request from the State government. The agency has formed a seven-member special investigation team under a DIG of Special Crime from Delhi, comprising some of the best investigators drawn from various units of the agency, officials said.

Mayawati demands extensive relief for storm victims in U.P.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Saturday urged the Uttar Pradesh government to provide extensive support to families affected by the recent storm and heavy rain that had resulted in at least 111 deaths across the State. "The State government should come forward with all its generosity to help the people/families affected by the massive destruction of life and property caused by the recent severe storm so that they can gather their ruined/scattered family life and start their life again," she said on social media platform X. The BSP president also criticised the Centre for increasing petrol and diesel prices.

Middling attendance of MPs for standing committees: data

An average of 53% of members were present in the meetings of 16 department-related standing committees and the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament to deliberate on various important subjects since their reconstitution last September, according to data on the Lok Sabha website. During this period, five meetings were postponed due to a lack of quorum. A minimum of 11 members must be present for a quorum with a standing committee consisting of 31 MPs – 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been raising the issue of ensuring that MPs attend parliamentary committees.

TCS case: court denies bail to POSH committee member

A court in Nashik, Maharashtra has denied bail to TCS site head and internal POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) committee member Ashwini Chainani noting that she 'ignored' the complaint of a victim in the alleged sexual harassment-conversion case, and thus 'abetted' the crime. Besides Ms. Chainani, the court on Friday refused grant bail to Tausif Attar, Raza Memon, Shahrukh Qureshi and Asif Ansari in the case. In the reasoned order, Additional Sessions Judge V.V. Kathare said that Ms. Chainani's "silence and insensitivity effectively endorsed the toxic workplace environment". She was arrested on April 10 for alleged abetment under the BNS. PTI

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	5	9	8	3	7	1	4
1	3	9	4	2	7	8	6	5
7	4	8	5	6	1	3	2	9
3	8	7	6	1	5	9	4	2
4	1	2	3	7	9	5	8	6
5	9	6	8	4	2	1	3	7
8	5	3	2	9	6	4	7	1
2	7	4	1	5	8	6	9	3
9	6	1	7	3	4	2	5	8

Barn swallows in Manipur shed their migratory trait

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Descendants of migratory barn swallows may have gradually stopped making long journeys and settled permanently in Manipur's Imphal Valley, a new study suggests.

The finding, published in the *Journal of Wildlife Science*, also says that these fork-tailed birds may represent a mixed population shaped by ancient movements and interbreeding between their different groups over thousands of years.

The authors of the study are Amarjeet Kaur and R. Suresh Kumar of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). Their study is based on field surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023.

"Birds have shown notable expansions and contractions of breeding ranges in response to climate change, land-use transformation, and the creation of novel human-made habitats. Synanthropic species, those closely associated with humans, are often at the forefront of such shifts," the study notes.

The barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) is a widespread synanthrope that has expanded its range across continents. In India, two subspecies of barn swallows are reported to breed in the Himalayas, while one is believed to winter in parts of the country's northeastern region.

The two WII scientists, one from the Department of Habitat Ecology and the other from the Department of Endangered Species Management, did not find any barn swallows in Manipur's hill districts. They found thriving colonies in the Imphal Valley, recording nests in about 50 homes and buildings across Bishnupur, Imphal East, Imphal West, and Thoubal districts.

Changing pattern: During the survey, adult barn swallows were seen at the nesting sites throughout the year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Variety of colours

They captured 45 individuals – 26 males and 19 females. The swallows showed a variety of colours, ranging from buff to rich chestnut-orange underparts, with differences in throat and breast markings. Measurements of their wings and tails overlapped with several recognised subspecies, making it impossible to determine which population they belonged to.

During the survey, adult barn swallows were seen at the nesting sites throughout the year, indicating that they do not leave the valley after breeding.

The scientists suggest two possible explanations for why the Imphal Valley birds challenge the understanding of barn swallows.

One is that these birds shed the migratory trait of their ancestors to settle down in the valley that offers ideal conditions – a mild climate, plentiful flying insects, and structures suitable for building their cup-shaped mud nests. The other is the impact of interbreeding of different groups over thousands of years.

The scientists did not rule out the role of local culture in the birds' evolution from temporary to permanent residents. "The Meitei community, a Tibeto-Burman ethnic group native to Manipur, regards the barn swallow as a symbol of Goddess Lakshmi, prosperity, and good fortune. This belief translates into strong protection of nests and barn swallows within private properties, likely contributing to the persistence of breeding populations in densely inhabited areas in Imphal Valley," they observe.

The researchers note that the study provides the first documentation of a resident breeding population of barn swallows in Manipur, extending the species' known breeding range in the Indian subcontinent.

"It highlights a critical ecological gap in our understanding of avian biogeography in this understudied region and challenges long-standing assumptions about subspecies limits," they state, underscoring the need to use tracking devices and genetic analyses in future studies to find out where these birds came from and how long they lived in Manipur.

Bengal govt. to reverify caste certificates issued since 2011

About 1.69 crore SC, ST and OBC certificates have been issued in the State since 2011; about 47.8 lakh certificates were issued under the *Duare Sarkar* camps during the Trinamool regime

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Observing that the authenticity and genuineness of some caste certificates have been challenged by different quarters, the West Bengal government has decided to conduct a reverification of all caste certificates issued in the State since 2011.

"Considering the importance and sensitivity of the matter, and as directed in a review meeting chaired by the competent authority, reverification of such caste certificates at the level of the respective issuing authorities will be done in accordance with the prevailing norms and statutory provisions," stated a letter issued by the Secretary of Backward Classes Welfare Department to all the District Magistrates on May 14.

About 1.69 crore SC, ST and OBC certificates have been issued in the State since 2011. The notification points out that about 47.8 lakh certificates – 32.51 lakh SC certificates, 6.65 lakh ST certificates and 8.64 lakh OBC certificates – were issued under the *Duare Sarkar* camps during the previous Trinamool Congress regime.

> During the Trinamool Congress regime, a large number of fake SC, ST and OBC certificates were issued. Many people availed themselves of benefits using these certificates
> **KSHUDIRAM TUDU**
> West Bengal Minister

Secretary of Backward Classes Welfare writes to all District Magistrates on the matter

Newly appointed Minister for Tribal Development and Backward Classes Kshudiram Tudu had raised the issue of fake or irregular caste certificates being issued soon after he took oath on May 9.

"During the Trinamool Congress regime, a large number of fake SC, ST and OBC certificates were issued. Many people availed themselves of benefits using these certificates," the Minister said, adding that action would be taken against officials under whose supervision such certificates were issued.

Since coming to power following its victory in the 2026 Assembly polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has started investigations into several initiatives undertaken during the Trinmaool regime between 2011 and 2026.

The matter of issuing caste certificates to ineligible people had become a major concern in the State's Jangalmahal region (Purulia, Jhargram, Bankura and Paschim Medinipur), and the BJP had promised action against such practices if voted to power.

A separate controversy had also erupted over the inclusion of Muslims on the OBC list of West Bengal during the Trinamool regime.

The West Bengal BJP said the Calcutta High Court had already made it clear that around 75 Muslim castes were included on the OBC list without any proper survey or due process, which the BJP alleged reflected the vote bank politics of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Athlete's house attacked in Bengal post-poll violence

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Swapna Barman, an Asian Games gold medallist and a candidate of the All India Trinamool Congress in the West Bengal Assembly polls, has become a victim of post-poll violence.

According to reports, a property owned by her, built of corrugated tin and located next to the house in which she currently resides in Uttar Dinajpur district, was set on fire by unidentified miscreants. No one was present inside the property and there were no reports of any injury.

Swapna Barman, the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold in 2018, was the Trinamool Congress candidate for the Rajganj Assembly seat in Jalpaiguri district. She lost to the BJP's Dinesh Sarkar by a margin of 21,477 votes.

"Had I known this, I would have never joined politics. Today my house was set on fire," Ms. Barman wrote on social media on Friday.

Swapna Barman

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee took to social media, and said that BJP supporters set fire to her house yesterday.

"An athlete who brought glory to the nation is being repaid with violence, intimidation and fear - simply because she chose to stand with the Trinamool Congress," Mr. Banerjee said, sharing a video of violence on social media.

Ever since the release of the Assembly poll results, the Trinamool has been alleging post-poll violence against its supporters. The BJP has denied the claims.

Centre to roll out scheme to educate out-of-school teens

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre is preparing to roll out a pilot programme across 10 districts in nine States to proactively connect out-of-school children in the age group of 14-18 with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for distance learning, moving beyond its existing voluntary framework.

A high-level meeting was convened on Saturday under the chairmanship of Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) under the Ministry of Education, to discuss the implementation strategy for the pilot programmes. It was attended by top officials of NIOS and State Education Departments as well as District Collectors and District Magistrates of the pilot districts.

According to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey estimates, over two crore children in the 14-18 age group are out of school.

The 10 districts are spread across Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, according to a press statement of the Union Education Ministry.

The initiative will track teens who drop out of school for various reasons.

The initiative will include app-based mapping of out-of-school children in the age group of 14-18 years, monitoring systems, incentive mechanisms, district-level convergence strategies, said a press statement from the Ministry of Education.

Before the pilot programme is kicked off, officials will also ensure enrolment of NIOS Facilitators, distribution of starter kits, and conduct of preliminary surveys.

Experts say new generation should be trained to acquire multidisciplinary skills

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Unconventional careers are cropping up everywhere and as a result, courses considered soft and less helpful in the job market are being given a rethink and in some cases, rebirth, according to experts.

They were speaking at a webinar, "Careers beyond the obvious: unlocking new pathways in humanities & sciences", organised on Saturday by *The Hindu* and the SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST) as part of the Future Career Conversations series.

One of the panellists, A. Vinay Kumar, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Science & Humanities, Management), SRMIST, said that when the new generation is being trained for skills, they must be trained to acquire multi disciplinary skills. The goal is to get them to think through different hats. Mr. Kumar said economic growth always spurred creation of new careers and opportunities: deeper the economic activity, deeper the career opportunity.

Kamal Karanth, co-founder, XPheno Private Limited, a specialist staffing company de-romanticised portfolio careers, pointing out that it thrived in certain habitats, one of them being the creative fields. Portfolio careers usually emerge after someone has spent considerable time at the "crease", discovered themselves, and has become a specialist.

Mr. Karanth also dwelt on freelance work, sifting fact from fiction. Everyone would want to be their own boss, but hesitate to pay the price: the lack of a steady income. Unlike some economies in the West, Indian economic realities militate against freelance work.

On making internships count, Deepa Sethi, Professor and Executive Chair of Globe, IIM, Kozhikode, said by being focussed on being impressive, seeking validation, students miss the mark, which is about paying attention. Her advice to students: "do not treat it as a performance, but an opportunity to showcase your learning, apply what you have learnt and also bring some clarity and critical thinking to the table".

A. Duraiswamy, Dean – Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRMIST, noted that interdisciplinary careers are the future. He highlighted proven efforts at SRMIST to work out various combinations of disciplines for optimal learning. He added that for successful completion of a programme, a student would have to rack up a huge chunk of credits from other disciplines. He underlined how courses diametrically opposite in terms of their application are brought together in multi-disciplinary offerings.

This webinar can be viewed at newsth.live/THSRMHY

Tagged Amur falcons set to cross India on return trip

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Two of the three Amur falcons which were satellite-tagged in Manipur's Tamenglong district in November 2025, are returning to their breeding grounds in the Far East through India, after migrating to the warmer southern Africa region during the winter.

In a post on X on Saturday, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said, "Having completed more than four months in their non-breeding grounds in southern Africa, two of these Amur Falcons are on their spring migration, returning to their breeding region in Far-East Asia via India."

During their journey from Africa's Somalia to Northeast India, they undertake a non-stop flight of nearly 6,000 km in six days, he said. A tagged young female Amur falcon named Alang is currently headed for India's west coast and is crossing the Arabian Sea, having started from Somalia on Friday morning, the Minister said.

INBRIEF

Tata unit, ASML ink MoU to boost chip making in India

Tata Electronics Ltd. and ASML, a leading semiconductor equipment making firm, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost advanced semiconductor manufacturing in India. Under this, ASML will enable the establishment and successful ramp up of Tata Electronics' 300 mm (12 inch) semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat. The collaboration will focus on deploying ASML's holistic suite of advanced lithography tools and solutions at the fab.

DRL unveils Semaglutide injection generic in Canada

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) on Saturday said it has launched its generic version of Semaglutide injection used in treatment of type 2 diabetes in Canada. The company is among the first to introduce a generic Semaglutide injection in the Canadian market, following the Notice of Compliance (NOC) received from Health Canada on April 28,, Dr Reddy's said. Canada is the first G7 country to grant market authorisation for Semaglutide injection, it added. PTI

UrsaCompute mulls $300 mn boost to India's sovereign AI

UrsaCompute, the AI compute infrastructure arm of Ursa Group, said it planned to invest $300 million in building sovereign AI compute infrastructure in India, including the deployment of 2,888 NVIDIA Blackwell GPUs. "The deployment aligns with the Government of India's ₹10,372 crore IndiaAI Mission, which aims to strengthen domestic AI infrastructure and reduce reliance on overseas hyperscaler ecosystems for advanced AI workloads," the company said. The Phase 1 deployment will be anchored at ST Telemedia Global Data Centre in Greater Noida and is expected to support high-density AI training workloads and enterprise AI adoption among others.

NHPC Q4 net jumps 68%, to pay 21 paisa/share dividend

State-owned NHPC has posted over 68% jump in consolidated net profit at ₹1,549.42 crore for March quarter 2025-26, supported by higher revenue. It had logged a profit of ₹919.63 crore in the year-ago period, the company said in an exchange filing on Friday. Total income during the period increased to ₹3,120.52 crore from ₹2,557.71 crore in fourth quarter of 2024-25. Annual net profit was at ₹4,220.46 crore against ₹3,411.73 crore. Total income was at ₹12,686.09 crore (₹11,614.61 crore). The board approved final dividend of 21 paise per equity share for FY26. PTI

Reality check of govt.'s LPG stock claim

Govt. assured people that India had 45 days of LPG 'rolling stock,' implying there was enough stock and no need for panic; this came as a puzzle to many since India had rather limited LPG storage capacity and needs regular shipments to the extent of one shipload of LPG arriving every day

NEWS ANALYSIS

M. Kalyanaraman
Debayan Tewari
CHENNAI

A few days ago, the government assured the people that India had 45 days of "rolling stock" in LPG, implying there were enough stocks and there was no need for panic.

The implication came as a puzzle to many since India has rather limited LPG storage capacity and needs regular shipments from abroad to the extent of an average of one shipload of LPG arriving every day.

Precious commodity: A worker handles a filled LPG gas cylinder amid reports of nationwide shortage of the cooking fuel. ANI

Total LPG capacity
As per government data, India has a total LPG tankage capacity of some 1.6 million tonne of which some 53% is in import terminals, some 31% in bottling plants, 16% in refineries and related facilities.

As per government data, this would account for some 17 days of consumption as per January 1, 2026 consumption figures, assuming all the tanks are full, no fresh LPG came in and none were produced in Indian refineries in that period.

Long-term storage
India has almost negligible long-term storage such as caverns unlike, say, Europe in the case of natural gas.

One could say that a few days can be added to the figure of 17 given the cutbacks in bulk LPG and commercial LPG supplies. There is always LPG currently under transportation as cylinders within India and that could be considered too.

Yet, this still leaves a large shortfall from the claimed figure of 45 days even if all the tanks are full, unless the government has considered the LPG on ships, which have been ordered and are on their way, as inventory.

It is industry practice to consider certain types of import shipments as inventory though they may not be considered reliable buffer stocks. The term "rolling stock" usually applies to goods transported by train.

The Hindu has been able to track 15 LPG tankers that left various ports in the U.S. for India using open-source marine traffic data.

Crystal Explorer, which left Houston, was scheduled to arrived in Ennore, Chennai, on Friday (May 15), while the tanker Hannibal reached Mangaluru on Saturday (May 16), as per *marinetraffic.com*.

The tanker Ethane Opal had discharged its cargo and left the Dahej port on Thursday.

The LPG tankers Vega Sky and Jirisan Explorer are scheduled to arrive in Vishakhapatnam and Ennore respectively on May 22, as per *marinetraffic.com*. Jia Yuan (Dhamra) and BW Aries (Vishakhapatnam) are likely to reach India this month.

Future Ace, which set sail from the port of Nederland in the U.S., is now in the Bay of Bengal abutting the Odisha coast. While *marinetraffic.com* did not show its final destination, it is nearing port of Dhamra.

Marine data show that the tankers Gas Planet, Pinza and Shergar, that have recently left the U.S., are likely to reach Vishakhapatnam in the third week of June. Ethane Pearl and Clipper Guardian are scheduled to dock at Dahej and Haldia respectively by mid-June or thereafter.

The combined deadweight of these 15 ships is 8.38 lakh tonne.

Among the 15 tankers, two vessels – Ethane Crystal (bound for Dahej) and Badrinath (Mangalore) – are going to Port Louis in Mauritius, where they are likely to refuel before heading towards India.

Boom in marine fuel
According to *Business Insider Africa*, Port Louis has seen a boom in marine fuel sales after the surge in marine traffic around the Cape of Good Hope, effected by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and threats of disruptions in the Red Sea.

On Thursday, LPG tanker Marshall Island-flagged Symi appeared to be sailing in the Gulf of Oman.

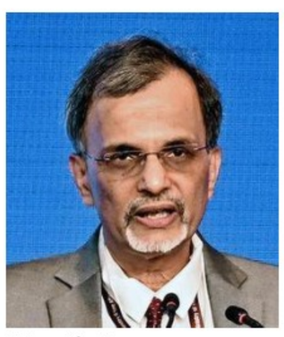
The vessel has been in the Persian Gulf since early March, having loaded its cargo at Ras Laffan in Qatar. It was among the 20 ships marked for evacuation by the government since it was critical to India's energy needs.

Reports said another LPG tanker, the Vietnam-flagged NV Sunshine had transited the Strait of Hormuz and has entered India and is now off the Gujarat coast. It too had switched off its AIS while sailing through the chokepoint. The combined dead weight of the two vessels is 81,572 tonne.

More LPG vessels
The vessels described above could carry some one million tonne of LPG but the list is not comprehensive. There could be more such vessels and spot purchases the government can make from vessels already loaded. India's post-war LPG consumption in March was some 2.4 million tonne – a drop of 6 lakh tonne compared with normal months. Import deficit was about 1 million tonne, made up by higher local output. By this account, 1 million tonne of shipment could add to another 12 days.

'Global financial situation extremely arduous'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU


V. Anantha Nageswaran

The global financial environment has become increasingly challenging, with U.S. 30-year Treasury yields crossing 5%, the U.K. 10-year yield rising above 5.2%, and Japan's 30-year yield touching 4%, said V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India.

According to him, much of the FDI India attracted over the past two decades came during an era of near-zero interest rates and quantitative easing, when global capital actively sought higher returns in emerging markets.

"With that phase now over, India must compete in a world where 5% risk-free long-term interest rates have raised the benchmark for every dollar of investment entering the country," he stated while delivering keynote at the PanIIT Alumni Meet.

Three major forces
Highlighting the changing global landscape, Dr. Nageswaran pointed to three major forces redefining the world order: intensifying great-power competition, fractures within Western alliances and China's unprecedented manufacturing dominance.

India's goods trade deficit stood at 8.5% of GDP in FY24, and even after excluding oil and coal imports, the deficit stood at 3.5% of GDP, indicating a structural rather than cyclical challenge.

At the same time, foreign direct investment (FDI), after accounting for repatriation and outflows by Indian firms, has reduced significantly, with global investors watching India closely but not committing capital at the scale required, he observed.

Global flows selective
Dr. Nageswaran noted India's goods trade deficit remained structurally significant and global capital flows were becoming more selective in a high-interest-rate environment.

"India's potential is not a given. It must be claimed deliberately," he said, emphasising the coming decades would be shaped not by any single government, but by the collective choices of citizens, institutions and industry leaders.

Dr. Nageswaran urged that, "India is at a fork, not in crisis and must move with speed, confidence and strategic clarity."

On manufacturing, he said India must simultaneously focus on labour-intensive sectors such as garments, footwear and food processing while also building capabilities in semiconductors, batteries, advanced electronics and specialty chemicals.

Energy reserves
Calling for greater urgency in building strategic reserves and accelerating nuclear energy adoption, he said a country aspiring to host semiconductor fabs, battery gigafactories and data centres cannot treat nuclear energy as a distant horizon.

On the rise of artificial intelligence and its impact on employment, he said, AI would compress routine cognitive work and narrow entry-level hiring, making deep expertise and skilled trades more important.

The country required at least eight million new jobs or livelihoods every year, however trade skills such as electricians, skilled construction workers and technicians will remain among the most protected and essential jobs in the emerging economy.

Stressing India's next 25 years would be determined by collective choices of institutions and individuals, he said the country could no longer afford slow decision-making and delayed execution in an increasingly fragmented world order.

India curbs some silver imports with instant effect

Reuters

India has curbed imports of certain silver products with immediate effect, shifting them from the "free" to "restricted" category, as per a notification.

The move is part of the government's efforts to curb imports of precious metals to ease pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves caused by higher oil prices.

The restriction on imports applies to certain high-purity silver bars and certain other grades, the notification said.

On Tuesday, India raised import tariffs on gold and silver to 15% from 6% in a move that could dampen demand in the country.

Ratan Tata Trusts says reviewing Charity Commissioner's order

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Venu Srinivasan

Tata Trusts has expressed surprise at the move by Venu Srinivasan, a long-time trustee of several Tata Trusts, to file a complaint with the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner.

"Sir Ratan Tata Trust was not aware of any complaint having been filed by Mr. Venu Srinivasan, Trustee until the receipt of directions from the Charity Commissioner today (May 15, 2026)," Tata Trusts said in a late-night statement.

"Mr. Venu Srinivasan had previously acknowledged the notice of the board meeting originally scheduled to be held on May 8, 2026, and the notice of the meeting rescheduled to May 16, 2026," the Tata Trusts statement said.

In an email in the late Friday evening (May 15, 2026), the Charity Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Mumbai, had directed the board of trustees of Tata Trusts to defer the meeting scheduled for May 16, 2026.

In that order, the Charity Commissioner mentioned the complaint filed by Mr. Venu Srinivasan dated April 28, 2026.

'Issued ex-parte'
Commenting on the order, Tata Trusts said the direction was issued ex-parte with reference to a complaint dated April 18, 2026, by one Ms. Katyayani Agrawal which was in respect of only Sir Ratan Tata Trust.

"Given these facts, we understand that the direction issued is only in respect of Sir Ratan Tata Trust. It is reiterated that the direction was issued ex- parte with no notice being given to the Sir Ratan Tata Trust and no hearing being afforded to it, before the direction was issued," the Tata Trusts said in the statement.

Board composition
Ms. Katyayani Agrawal's complaint relates to the composition of the Board of Trustees of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust and alleges that three out of six trustees of Sir Ratan Tata Trust, being permanent in nature, were in contravention of Section 30A(2) of the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, 1950 (introduced vide the Maharashtra Public Trusts (Second) Amendment Act of 2025), which prescribes that the number of perpetual or life trustees shall not exceed one-fourth of the total number of trustees of a public trust.

"It is the understanding of the Tata Trusts that the said amendment is prospective in nature and does not affect the appointments of perpetual trustees made prior to its coming into force on September 1, 2026.

"This is substantiated by both opinions and clarifications obtained by the Tata Trusts," it said in the statement.

Earlier, a writ petition (L) No. 16647/2026, relating to Sir Ratan Tata Trust, was filed in the Bombay High Court by Ms Agarwal.

'Petition withdrawn'
"It may be pertinent to mention that the Bombay High Court, on May 13, 2026, disposed of the aforementioned writ petition No. 16647/ 2026 as withdrawn. That petition had sought a direction restraining the same meeting of the board of trustees of Sir Ratan Tata Trust, on the basis of the complaint filed by Ms. Katyayani Agrawal," the statement said.

Tata Trusts said that the directions received from the Office of the Charity Commissioner were being examined by the Sir Ratan Tata Trust.

TCS to focus on industry-specific AI

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

TCS scaled up execution of the 'Human+AI' operating model in fiscal 2026.

In a year marred by layoffs, sexual harassment allegations at one of its call centres in India and amid the onslaught of the AI wave, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) sounded bullish about its future, with the chairman saying the firm is repositioning itself as an AI and digital transformation partner.

"In fiscal 2026, TCS scaled up execution of the 'Human+AI' operating model and industry specific agent marketplace. Your company generated an annualised revenue of $2.3 billion in AI services and $11.5 billion in new-age services, including Cloud, Data, Enterprise Solutions and Cyber Security," Chairman N. Chandrasekarn said in the annual report.

TCS was focusing on acquiring and scaling next-generation capabilities via inorganic initiatives.

Emphasising GenAI and agentic AI were entering a new phase of growth, he said AI would not just be a layer but be the operating foundation.

K. Krithivasan, MD & CEO, TCS said "As customers scale AI, they are looking for partners who can build and manage a unified control plane across the full AI stack - Infrastructure to Intelligence."

He said TCS will focus on four distinct progressions: build industry-specific AI systems, construct India's first high-density AI data centre, strengthen Infrastructure to Intelligence offering and establish secure, resilient, sovereign AI infrastructure.

RAJASTHAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed E-Bids are invited on behalf of Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura, Jaipur (Rajasthan) for the procurement of E-Tender for Construction of Plant Tissue Culture Lab and Protected Structures with Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment's on Turnkey Basis upto 11.06.2026, 11:00 AM.

Sr. No.	Name of Article	Specifications	Qty	Estimated Price (₹)	Price of Bidding Document (₹)	RISL Fee (₹)	Amount of Bid Security (₹)
1	E-Tender for Construction of Plant Tissue Culture Lab and Protected Structures with Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment's on Turnkey Basis		1597.17 Lakhs	10000/-	2500/-	31,94,340/-	

Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or on the website of the State Public Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or our website **www.sknau.ac.in** and may be downloaded from there or obtained from our office on payment of its Banker Cheque/demand draft. **UBN : SKN2627WLOB00437**
Raj.Samwad/C/26/2864
Director

Ministry of Culture Government of India
VISVESVARAYA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM
(A unit of National Council of Science Museums)
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, P.B No.: 5216, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru – 560 001, Telephone- 080–2286 6200, Fax: 080-22864009/22864119,
E-mail: vitmuseum@gmail.com Website: https://www.vismuseum.gov.in/

ADVERTISEMENT No. 02/2026

ONLINE applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts & Units Category	Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC)	Age as on 15.06.2026
1.	Education Assistant 'A' **(4 Posts)**	1 UR: VITM, Bengaluru 1 UR: RSC&P, Calicut 1 UR: RSC&P, Tirupati 1 UR: DSC, Kalaburagi	Rs.29200-92300/- (Level-5)	**35** Years
2.	Junior Stenographer **(1 Post)**	1 UR: VITM, Bengaluru	Rs.25500-81100/- (Level-4)	**25** Years
3.	Office Assistant (Gr.III) **(3 Posts)**	1 UR, 1 OBC } VITM, Bengaluru 1 UR: RSC, Tirupati	Rs.19900-63200/- (Level-2)	**25** years
4.	Technician 'A' **(3 Posts)** Fitter -02 Carpenter-01	1 SC: VITM, Bengaluru 1 SC: RSC, Tirupati 1 OBC: RSC&P, Calicut	Rs.19900-63200/- (Level-2)	**35** years
5.	Artist 'A' **(1 Post)**	1 SC: VITM, Bengaluru	Rs.19900-63200/- (Level-2)	**35** years

Usual allowances as admissible under the rules of NCSM. Upper age limit is relaxable for the reserved categories, as per GoI Rules. The last date of receipt of online applications for the posts **is 15.06.2026.** For further details please visit our website **www.vismuseum.gov.in**

IIT-M, IISc team makes carbon-free version of ferrocene sandwich

Vasudevan Mukunth

A compound called ferrocene has been a landmark of chemistry for over seven decades. It consists of an iron atom sandwiched between two flat carbon rings. Its discovery launched the field of organometallic chemistry, with numerous applications in materials science and medicine. Since then, chemists have been trying to create a version of this sandwich that contains no carbon atoms.

In a new study in *Science*, researchers from IIT-Madras and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, announced they had finally achieved this goal: a stable, carbon-free analogue of ferrocene using boron rings and osmium.

"Just as ferrocene started a new era in organometallics, these results will start a new era in inorganometallics and will be a part of textbooks of inorganic chemistry," study co-author and IIT-Madras professor Sundargopal Ghosh said. "Our efforts are on to study the reactions of these new compounds."

Boron is next to carbon on the periodic table and can form similar ring structures. While scientists had created sandwiches containing both carbon and boron, a purely inorganic version has been elusive.

The team turned to computer modelling to predict which metal would best stabilise a boron sandwich, and zeroed in on osmium. To create the complex, the team reacted a polymeric osmium-bromine precursor compound with an excess of a borane-dimethyl sulphide reagent. Then they heated the mixture to 100 °C for eight hours and isolated the product as a colourless solid. Finally, they used X-ray diffraction and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to check the atoms' arrangement.

The X-ray analysis revealed a perfect sandwich, with a single osmium atom between two parallel, five-membered boron rings. But unlike the flat carbon rings in ferrocene, the boron rings used bridging hydrogen atoms between the boron atoms.

These bridges redirected the ring's electron orbitals towards the metal, creating a bond even stronger than the one in ferrocene. This could pave the way for new catalysts that are stable at much higher temperatures.

According to the paper, the discovery establishes that the sandwich architecture is not exclusive to carbon-based organic chemistry.

"With the renaissance in the 2D chemistry of boron during the last decade, the possibility of metal sandwiched/intercalated bilayers and multilayers will be a reality soon," Eluvathingal D. Jemmis, IISc chemistry professor and one of the corresponding authors, said.

Constant mechanical force may be why heart cancer is so rare

With every contraction, heart muscles generate compressive forces that cells must withstand; for cancer cells, this creates a hostile environment that limits their ability to multiply, new research has found

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

The human heart beats more than 1 lakh times a day, pushing blood through the body. Every second, it encounters circulating cells, including cancer cells that travel through the bloodstream. Yet tumours of the heart are strikingly rare.

For decades, explanations based on genetics, immune surveillance, and the biology of heart cells have not cracked this puzzle. New research in Science has now suggested that the force of each heartbeat may itself limit the growth of cancer cells in the organ.

"Patients on heart-assist devices showed signs that their heart cells could start dividing again," Giulio Ciucci, a postdoctoral researcher at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Trieste, Italy, and co-author of the study, said about the study's origin.

The researchers introduced cancer-causing mutations across multiple organs in mice, expecting tumours throughout the body. Tumours formed in several tissues but not in the heart. Then, the team surgically implanted a second heart into another part of the body and connected it to blood vessels so it remained alive and beating, but no longer pumped blood through its left ventricle under normal mechanical load. This allowed it to receive blood without experiencing the forces generated by each heartbeat. In these 'unloaded' hearts, cancer cells that had struggled to grow began to expand rapidly, in some cases occupying large portions of the tissue.

Beaten back

Forces generated by a beating organ can alter gene activity in cancer cells

- The human heart is rarely affected by cancer despite being exposed to circulating tumor cells
- New research suggests that the physical force of every heartbeat directly limits the growth of cancer cells
- Experiments on mice showed that cancer cells multiplied rapidly when the heart stopped bearing its normal load
- Mechanical stress also reshapes chromatin structure in the nucleus to activate genes that restrain cancer cell division
- Physical forces reach the nucleus through the internal cytoskeleton to influence how DNA is organised and used
- Researchers hope to identify specific physical signals that lead to new treatments for other cancer types

The human heart beats more than 1 lakh times a day, pushing blood through the body under constant physical strain. ROBINA WEERMEIJER

They used lab-grown heart tissues made from living cells arranged into small, beating strips. These could be constrained to either contract or remain relaxed. Again, reducing mechanical activity allowed cancer cells to proliferate more easily, reinforcing the pattern.

With every contraction, heart muscles generate compressive forces that cells must withstand. This could create a hostile environment for cancer cells that limits their ability to multiply. That is, the heart's constant motion of circulating blood incidentally also creates physical conditions unfavourable for cancer to grow.

The effect was striking because it seemed to extend into the cell's nucleus. Chromatin is the name for DNA inside the cell, in its 'packaged' form. Some parts are tightly packed while others are more open, making the genes in those regions easier to activate. The researchers found that mechanical stress changed which parts of the DNA became easier for the cell to access. In beating heart tissue, regions linked to slowing or restraining cell division became more accessible, while signs of active proliferation declined. These changes suggested that mechanical force shifted cancer cells away from rapid growth.

To understand how, the researchers investigated how mechanical forces might propagate inside the cell. Their experiments pointed to a pathway involving the cytoskeleton – the cell's internal support structure – and connecting proteins that link the cytoskeleton to the nucleus. The findings suggested stress from the heart could reach the nucleus through these physical connections, influencing how DNA is organised and used.

This idea is now new – but how cells sense and process these forces remains unclear, per Jan Lammerding, professor of biomedical engineering at Cornell University.

"Several previous studies have shown that the mechanical environment can lead to changes in chromatin organisation inside the nucleus, which then influence gene expression and cell fate," he said. "It's still uncertain whether the nucleus detects mechanical stress directly, or whether signals are first picked up elsewhere in the cell and then relayed inward."

The new study provides evidence that forces generated by a beating organ can indeed alter chromatin organisation and gene activity in cancer cells through physical connections in the cell.

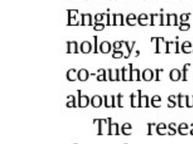
If mechanical forces can influence gene activity in heart tissue, similar effects could be at play in other organs where cells are constantly stretched, compressed or exposed to physical strain, Dr. Ciucci said. Mechanical signals generated by blood flow are already known to guide how heart and blood vessel cells grow and function, C.C. Kartha, ex-professor of eminence at the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, said. These signals travel through molecular pathways that connect the cell surface to the nucleus.

What the "significant and stimulating" observations from this study show, he said, is that some of these pathways may also act to suppress cancer cell growth in the heart, helping explain why tumours rarely take hold there.

But he cautioned that the picture is not straightforward. In other settings, mechanical cues from the tumour environment can promote cancer progression and metastasis: "It would be important to identify which specific physical signals lead to these different outcomes."

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi)

Focused ultrasound offers new ways to treat eye disease



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

A normal human hears sound in the frequency range 20 hertz (Hz) to 20 kilohertz, and the normal loudness, measured in decibels (dB), is between 30 and 70 db. Higher volumes, e.g. 85 dB and above, can lead to hearing damage. Ultrasound is defined as sound frequencies far beyond the audible range, and is expressed in kilohertz (kHz) or megahertz (MHz).

Regardless of its intensity, ultrasound is inaudible to the human ear. Ultrasound's very short wavelength allows it to travel through biological tissues. It is also propagated as a mechanical wave, where one molecule pushes against the next, and therefore it travels at a faster speed in stiff and incompressible tissues such as bone, but is slower in tissues such as fat. This property is used to generate ultrasound 'images' of human foetuses. (Ultrasound is much safer than X-rays, whose ionising effects can damage DNA.)

At a low intensity, low frequency ultrasound (200-700 kHz) allows the modulation of neural activities in mouse brains. W.J. Tyler et al. of Arizona State University showed this in 2008. Similarly, M. Menz et al. pointed out in 2013 that neural stimulation in the retina of a test amphibian (salamander) occurred when ultrasound of 43 MHz was applied (*Journal of Neuroscience*, 33, 4550). At such a high frequency, constant pressure is applied on the surface of the retinal tissue, which results in the activation of the retinal ganglion cells that send signals to the brain.

Scientists are attempting to restore vision using ultrasound when the optic nerve is impaired. Representative image. UNSPLASH

This phenomenon recently sparked interest in the potential of ultrasound stimulation and sonogenetics to restore vision (Jie Ji et al.; *Neural Regen. Res. 20: 3501*). Sonogenetics makes use of the non-invasive nature of ultrasound to modulate the activity of small groups of neurons in living organisms. Genetic engineering is first used to deliver a gene that makes a mechanosensitive protein in a neuron's cell membrane. The neurons can then be activated on demand by ultrasound waves.

The eye, in particular, is easily accessible to ultrasound and the lens, cornea, retina, and the vitreous humour are easily studied using ultrasound. Of particular interest are attempts to restore vision when the optic nerve is impaired. This happens in degenerative conditions such as glaucoma and the ensuing optic neuropathy, and infectious diseases that affect the brain (e.g. meningitis). In these conditions, ultrasound stimulation of the visual cortex in the brain can lead to some restoration of vision (Chen Gong et al., *Bioengineering* 10:577, 2023).

High-intensity focused ultrasound waves have other therapeutic uses, too. For example, in cancer treatment, precision focusing on a tumour can cause the temperature in these cells to rise rapidly to 65-85 °C, effectively killing these cells while leaving the surrounding tissue unharmed.

All these studies have used animals as models. Has anyone actually used sound waves to treat retinal disorders in human patients? The answer is yes. In 2025, Wang et al. from Chongqing Medical University in China did so with 16 glaucoma patients, using ultrasound, and with success. Further, an agency called Focused Ultrasound Foundation from Charlottesville, Virginia, in the U.S., has also developed a device called 'Eye Tech Care' that the Foundation has claimed can focus ultrasound on the ciliary body, decreasing the intraocular pressure and thus treating glaucoma. This technology, however, needs to be cleared by the U.S. National Health Agency.

(The author thanks Dr. Srinivasu Karri of the Hormel Institute, Minnesota, USA, for access to several references)

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SNAPSHOTS

Older dawn of horse-riding could have changed Eurasia

Scientists have challenged the claim that horse riding began after 2100 BC. They have reported archaeological evidence showing humans rode horses at least 1,000 years prior after analysing three early horse populations in Eurasia. Those at the Botai site indicated horse use by 3500 BC; skeletons of Yamnaya individuals in 3200-2600 BC revealed physical changes due to habitual riding. Early riding allowed these people to manage large herds and migrate vast distances, reshaping Eurasia's genetic map.

More selective breeding can help pugs breathe easier

Researchers examined data from over 4,000 bulldogs, French bulldogs, and pugs to analyse brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome, a disorder afflicting flat-faced dogs. They found a genetic link between nostril shape and overall breathing quality and that respiratory function is moderately heritable, meaning careful, selective breeding can improve dogs' health. The authors also recommended breeders use the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme to identify healthier parents and to pick traits over appearance.

Humans' mercury footprint was evident millennia ago

A Greenland ice core has revealed a 12,000-year record of mercury deposits. Scientists found human impact began earlier than believed. The core showed levels started rising in the Bronze Age due to mining in Eurasia. Accumulation further intensified in the 13th century and exploded in the industrial era. The findings suggest humans have disrupted the mercury cycle for two millennia and that current models are wrong to focus on the last five centuries.

Question Corner

Clouds of ash

How do volcanoes affect the earth's atmosphere?

Volcanoes change the earth's atmosphere by releasing gases and particles in large quantities. When a volcano erupts, it blasts sulphur dioxide high into the sky. Since aerosols scatter sunlight, a powerful eruption can end up cooling the earth's surface for many years. Large eruptions also spew clouds of ash and dust that block sunlight around the eruption site, while most of the ash falls back down in a few weeks.
Eruptions also release carbon dioxide. While modern human activity produces much more carbon dioxide than volcanoes, eruptions throughout history have helped drive long-term warming trends. They also emit compounds that can create acid rain or damage the protective ozone layer. Taken together, volcanic eruptions have influenced the earth's climate.
Recently, researchers used satellites to study the 2022 Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption. They found the volcano released quantities of methane into the stratosphere, where volcanic ash triggered chemical reactions that turned the methane into formaldehyde.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Why has Air India cut international flight operations?

Why has it been so severely impacted? Which routes have been affected? How are other international airlines coping?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

Last week, Air India announced sweeping international schedule cuts between June and August, including a nearly 40% reduction in North America operations and significant cuts across SAARC and Southeast Asia.

Which international routes have been affected?

According to airline sources, a total of 145 weekly flights across North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, SAARC, and the Far East have been removed, resulting in an overall 27% reduction in international flight operations.

In North America, Air India's most critical international market, weekly flights will be reduced from 51 to 33, which is a 39% decline. Services on routes such as Delhi-Chicago, Delhi-Newark and Mumbai-New York are being temporarily suspended, although the airline has added four extra Mumbai-Newark flights, taking that route to seven weekly services.

In Europe, schedule changes have been made on routes to Paris, Copenhagen, Milan, Vienna, Zurich, and Rome where altogether 34% of flights have been withdrawn. But services to London, Manchester, and Amsterdam remain unaffected.

The impact of the war in West Asia has extended well beyond westbound routes, with services to Southeast Asia, SAARC, and the Far East seeing the sharpest reductions. About 57% of flights to places including Kathmandu, Dhaka, Colombo, Bangkok, Shanghai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Ho Chi Minh City have been withdrawn. Services to Singapore have also been cut considerably, with 21 weekly flights connecting Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai to the country being withdrawn.

The impact of the war in West Asia has extended well beyond westbound routes, with services to Southeast Asia, SAARC, and the Far East seeing the sharpest reductions

Further east, Delhi-Melbourne and Delhi-Sydney flights have reduced from seven to four flights per week.

What are the reasons for these cuts?

The reductions in flight capacity are a direct fallout of the West Asia conflict, which has forced airlines operating between Asia and Europe to avoid the conflict-hit airspace for safety reasons. As a result, Air India has been forced to adopt longer flight paths, increasing travel times to North America by nearly five to six hours. The revised routes now include refuelling stops in Vienna and Copenhagen.

For Indian carriers, the disruption has been compounded by Pakistan's ban on the use of its airspace by Indian airlines since Operation Sindoor in April 2025. This puts them at a clear disadvantage compared to European peers such as Lufthansa.

Have other airlines been affected?

The sharp reduction in international flights is not limited to Air India alone. IndiGo saw a 21% reduction in its international flights in April, while carriers such as SpiceJet, Akasa Air, and Air India Express recorded cuts of more than 50%, albeit on a much smaller international network base. However, Air India has borne the biggest brunt of the disruption as it remains the only Indian carrier operating flights to North America and dominates Indian operations across several European destinations, where IndiGo is still a relatively new entrant.

By April, jet fuel prices had already risen by 130% amid escalating tensions in the Gulf, creating another major challenge for airlines, where fuel accounts for nearly 40% of operating costs. And while airlines have imposed fuel surcharges and raised airfares to offset rising costs, they are increasingly concerned about the point at which higher ticket prices could begin to deter passengers from travelling.

The network rationalisation is therefore an attempt by the Air India Group to stem mounting losses as operational pressures intensify. Air India posted a loss of ₹26,700 crore in FY2025-26 amid multiple headwinds, including the Pakistan airspace ban and travellers avoiding the airline in the aftermath of the crash in Ahmedabad on June 12 last year.

What are the global trends?

The regional conflict has hit the Gulf carriers the worst, with the International Air Transport Association reporting a 61% decline in international passenger traffic carried by them in March. Beyond the Gulf, the Lufthansa Group cancelled 20,000 short-haul flights operated by its subsidiary, Lufthansa CityLine, until October to save jet fuel while also moving to consolidate operations and improve the efficiency of its long-haul connections.

Qantas has announced a 5% reduction in domestic capacity and a 2% cut in international flights in response to soaring jet fuel prices. While it has added capacity on select Europe routes, it has also scaled back elsewhere, including withdrawing its Bengaluru-Sydney service.

Why is the Prime Minister advocating austerity?

What are the seven set of suggestions that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made for the public? How has the war in West Asia impacted various sectors in India and how will these cutbacks help? What measures is the government taking?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

Over the past week, a series of nudges, policy changes, and public messages have sought to influence the behaviour of Indian consumers, companies, and farmers. At the heart of this push is an effort to reduce India's imports of oil and petroleum products, gold, and fertilizers, and involves everyone from the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues to industry leaders and associations.

What was the Prime Minister's message?

On May 10, during a speech in Secunderabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out a seven-fold set of suggestions for the Indian public to help the economy and the government's finances weather the storm created by the war in West Asia.

The Prime Minister asked Indians to prioritise working from home; reduce petrol and diesel usage by using public transport and electric vehicles; reduce the use of cooking oil; stop buying gold for at least a year; buy Indian-made products rather than foreign ones; pause foreign travel; and adopt natural fertilizers instead of using imported chemical ones.

The Opposition, along with several other commentators, questioned the timing of his appeals, coming as they did right after the conclusion of Assembly elections in some key States. Neither the political leadership nor the bureaucracy mentioned any impending problems in the run-up to the elections. The critics point out that in fact, the Prime Minister and several of his Cabinet colleagues flew across the country to campaign in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Assam, where they also organised several road shows. These questions relate more to the timing of the message than to whether remedial action is needed at all.

India's Current Account Deficit is set to grow to about 2.5% of the GDP in this financial year, from 1.4% in the quarter ended December 2025

A display board showing the rates of gold and silver in a jewellery showroom in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu, on May 14. R. VENGADESH

Why are these cutbacks needed?

It is now well established that the war in West Asia has created a global energy crisis. One of the aspects of this crisis is that the prices of oil and gas have shot up. A year ago, the price of Brent Crude – one of the benchmarks for oil – stood at $65 a barrel; it is now around $110.

India imports 85-90% of its oil requirement. This means that any time the price of oil goes up internationally, the country's import bill increases. Oil alone makes up about 17% of India's total goods import basket. That is why three out of Mr. Modi's seven suggestions were aimed at reducing fuel usage and oil imports.

The war has also led to an increase in the price of gold as investors flock to it as a 'safe haven' asset in times of uncertainty. Indians have a cultural affinity for the yellow metal that defies any price movement. While the price of gold increased by 45-60% over the last year, the volume of India's gold imports fell only about 5% in the same period. The value of these imports increased 24%. In other words, the higher price only impacted the demand for gold at the margins; the bulk of purchases has continued.

A third major trend is the depreciation of the rupee. The currency breached the ₹96-to-a-dollar mark on May 15 before closing a little higher at ₹95.96. A year ago, the currency was trading at about ₹85 to a dollar. Throughout this period, the Reserve Bank of India has been stepping in to stabilise the fall of the rupee and reduce volatility, mainly by selling the dollars in its reserves and absorbing rupees in the market. As a result, the Reserve Bank of India's foreign exchange reserves fell to $552.4 billion as of May 8, 2026, from $581.4 billion a year earlier – a decline of about $29 billion.

Foreign Institutional Investors have been pulling out large sums from Indian markets. When they do this, they sell in rupees and are repatriated in dollars, creating another significant channel of dollar outflows.

Taken together, all this means that India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) – the amount by which its imports of goods and services exceed exports – is set to grow to about 2.5% of the GDP in this financial year from 1.4% as recently as the quarter ended December 2025.

A sustained high CAD has several serious knock-on effects for the economy and has led to several crises for the Indian government since Independence. It is therefore clear why the government is seeking to act now to prevent such an outcome.

Has the government also taken some measures?

Over the last week, the government has taken several measures to support these efforts. Effective from May 13, it doubled the effective tax to be paid on the import of gold and silver to a total of 18.4% from the previous 9.2%. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has also tightened the conditions under which gems and jewellery exporters can import gold duty-free. On May 16, the government also restricted the import of silver.

The prices of petrol and diesel were hiked on May 15 by ₹3 a litre each, in an attempt to reduce demand. The price of CNG was increased by ₹2 per kg. A rough calculation by *The Hindu* shows that this would earn oil marketing companies an additional ₹4,400 crore per month. However, this is not much when compared to the loss they are currently bearing, which the government said amounts to about ₹1,000 crore a day on petrol, diesel and LPG. This means further fuel price hikes could be imminent.

Notably, in a rare occurrence, Mr. Modi himself took to social media to deny a news report that the government was considering imposing a temporary cess on foreign travel.

Mr. Modi and several of his Cabinet ministers have also reduced the sizes of their convoys.

Will these steps work?

Several of the measures called for by the Prime Minister and implemented by the government might work at the margins, but some might lead to negative consequences as well. For instance, higher fuel prices may deter unnecessary travel, but unless offices implement a 'work from home' policy again, employees will have no option but to travel to work and bear the higher cost. Overall, higher fuel costs are inflationary in nature. Further, the diesel and CNG price hike is likely to make public transport costlier.

History has shown that higher gold prices do not necessarily deter purchases and can, in fact, lead to an increase in smuggling, as happened in 2013 when import duties were raised.

Asking farmers to switch to natural fertilizers and hold off on buying chemical ones is a workable medium-term strategy, but would be disruptive in the short term. Agricultural output, already expected to be under strain due to a below-normal monsoon and stronger El Nino this year, will suffer further.

An analysis by *The Hindu* has also shown that the growth in foreign spending by Indians is not on travel, which is contracting, but on foreign equity, debt, and immovable assets.

Short of draconian measures, there are few short-term measures that will effectively solve the CAD issue. Various governments have struggled to make India more competitive on exports. Unless that changes, and dollar inflows rise substantially, such crises are likely to recur.

Why has RSS called for dialogue with Pakistan?

What did RSS leader Dattatreya Hosabale say about ties with Pakistan and what reactions did his remarks trigger in India and Pakistan? Can his statement be read as reflecting government policy? What has the RSS's stance on talks with Pakistan been?

Nistula Hebbar

The story so far:

Last week, Dattatreya Hosabale, the second in command in the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mothership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said in an interview to news agency Press Trust of India (PTI) that India should persist with attempts at a dialogue with Pakistan. His statement triggered reactions from Pakistan, leaders of political parties in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), India's former Chief of Army Staff, and from the Opposition.

Why have Mr. Hosabale's remarks made news?

There have been a lot of comments on not just the substance of the remarks, but also their timing, coming as they do close on the heels of the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, which followed the 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam in J&K that left 16 people dead. The Narendra-Modi led National Democratic Alliance government has consistently held that there can be no dialogue as long as Pakistan-backed terror groups continue to carry out attacks in India. In the light of the filial relationship between the RSS and the BJP, Mr. Hosabale's views have therefore raised queries as to whether the Union government was being provided political cover to change its stance on talks with Pakistan.

RSS office bearers maintain that the context of Hosabale's remarks had more to do with the organisation's long-held beliefs than with any immediate preoccupation with dialogue and discourse

RSS leader Dattatreya Hosabale speaking to PTI in New Delhi. PTI

What has been the RSS's record with regard to talks with Pakistan?

RSS office bearers maintain that the context of Mr. Hosabale's remarks had more to do with the organisation's long-held beliefs than with any immediate preoccupation with dialogue and discourse. They point out that Mr. Hosabale's remarks, taken in full, made it clear that while there was no trust in Pakistan's political and military leadership, people-to-people contact remains the most crucial aspect of engagement, in keeping with the RSS's own ideas about civil society engagement. The remarks are therefore not comments on what the government should or should not do, but relate instead to what the RSS has been saying for a while.

What has the RSS said about relations with Pakistan in the past?

In April 1964, Deendayal Upadhyaya and Ram Manohar Lohia issued a joint statement on relations with Pakistan. At the time, the latter, while canvassing support from Opposition parties for an anti-Congress front, had reached out to the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the political wing of the RSS and the precursor to the BJP.

Both Lohia and Upadhyaya agreed that the division between India and Pakistan was historically proven to be based on artificial grounds (reflected in the RSS's conception of an Akhand Bharat or undivided Indian subcontinent) and the governments of the two countries always indulged in *tooti baatcheet* (piecemeal dialogue) and *toota vichar* (piecemeal thinking) instead of establishing a comprehensive framework for talks. The concept of Akhand Bharat as a loose Hind-Pak Mahasangh also finds mention in the statement.

This may be too far in the past. But even more recently, the RSS, and indeed Mr. Hosabale himself, has advocated for dialogue. In 2015, at the conclusion of an RSS-led Samanvay Baithak or coordination meeting with all its frontal organisations, Mr. Hosabale had, in an answer to a question, said: "India is part of SAARC and has family-like cultural relations with neighbouring countries, be it Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan or Bangladesh. It was one body which was divided to form Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is natural that people living there are part of the same family. Sometimes relations [go bad], like it happens between brothers and so we also discussed how we can improve our relations with those who are historically and geographically attached to us."

Similar sentiments were expressed in 2017 as well, after another joint meeting between the BJP and the RSS.

What were the reactions to Mr. Hosabale's recent comments?

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the remarks, calling them a "positive development" and hoping that "sanity will prevail in India". In J&K, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said that he is "glad that somebody is now thinking that war is not an option." Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said "talks are the only headway" to address the issues between the two countries. India's former Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Naravane (retd.), also welcomed the statement as a positive sign for engagement between the two countries, especially at a delicate time in bilateral relations. The Congress criticised the remarks, with MP Manish Tewari asking: What has "materially changed since the Baisaran [Pahalgam] massacre?"

Can Mr. Hosabale's statement be extrapolated to reflect government policy?

The answer is complicated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a product of the Sangh Parivar and has publicly acknowledged this fact. His government has been one of the most intensely ideological in India's history, fulfilling some of the core issues on the RSS agenda including the reading down of Article 370 and the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

With regard to the relationship with Pakistan, matters stray into a territory that is more dynamic, and affected by both internal and external events. The RSS's views have been quite consistent for a long time; therefore, governmental intervention, which also depends on immediate circumstances, may not usually follow the same trajectory. What the comments suggest is that whenever or if ever Mr. Modi seeks to initiate dialogue with Pakistan, he will have political cover from the ideological parent of the BJP.

PROFILES

The 'Nehruvian' revivalist

V.D. Satheesan

A self-described supporter of Nehruvian socialism, the Congress leader who steered the party-led alliance, out of power for a decade, to an emphatic victory over the Left Democratic Front in Kerala is now set to take the reins of the State

K.S. Sudhi

A few months before the Assembly polls, V.D. Satheesan, the then Opposition Leader of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, created a political flutter by declaring that he would opt for political exile if he failed to bring the party back to power. The announcement was greeted with usual cynicism.

Many political observers even dismissed it as an astute move of a canny politician to energise the party and its rank and file for the crucial election. A few months after the declaration, Mr. Satheesan is set to assume office as Kerala Chief Minister, after leading the Congress-led alliance to victory over the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and outmanoeuvring two senior colleagues in the race for the top post.

The Congress, after being out of power for a decade, and Mr. Satheesan could ill-afford a defeat in the election as it would have spelt doom for both the organisation and himself, especially at a time when the national leadership of the Congress had reposed much faith in him to revive its fortunes in the State. Five years ago, the party appointed him as the Leader of the Opposition, overlooking the claims of Ramesh Chennithala, his one-time leader.

Mr. Satheesan, who has been consistently representing the Paravur Assembly constituency in Ernakulam district for six terms, began his political career with a defeat in his debut contest in 1996 when he lost to P. Raju of the CPI.

The young lawyer of the Kerala High Court refused to leave the constituency despite losing the election. The next five years saw Mr. Satheesan carefully nurturing his relationship with the voters of the constituency, who presented him with his first electoral victory in 2001. Mr. Satheesan never had to look back.

A post-graduate in Law and Social Work, Mr. Satheesan learned the early lessons of social and political engineering under the tutelage of former Minister G. Karthikeyan, whom he reveres as his guide and philosopher and fondly called GK. Mr. Satheesan remembers that it was GK who bargained with the party leadership to field him as a candidate in Paravur Assembly Constituency.

Mr. Satheesan was often seen as a loner in the party. However, he never shied away from speaking his mind. His candid approach won him more foes than friends in the organisation, which was then divided into two opposing camps, the 'I' faction led by former Chief Minister K. Karunakaran and the 'A' group, the loyalists of another former Chief Minister and Union Minister A.K. Antony. Though Mr. Satheesan was identified with the 'I' faction during his early years of political career, he quickly moved away from the factions to assert his independent identity.

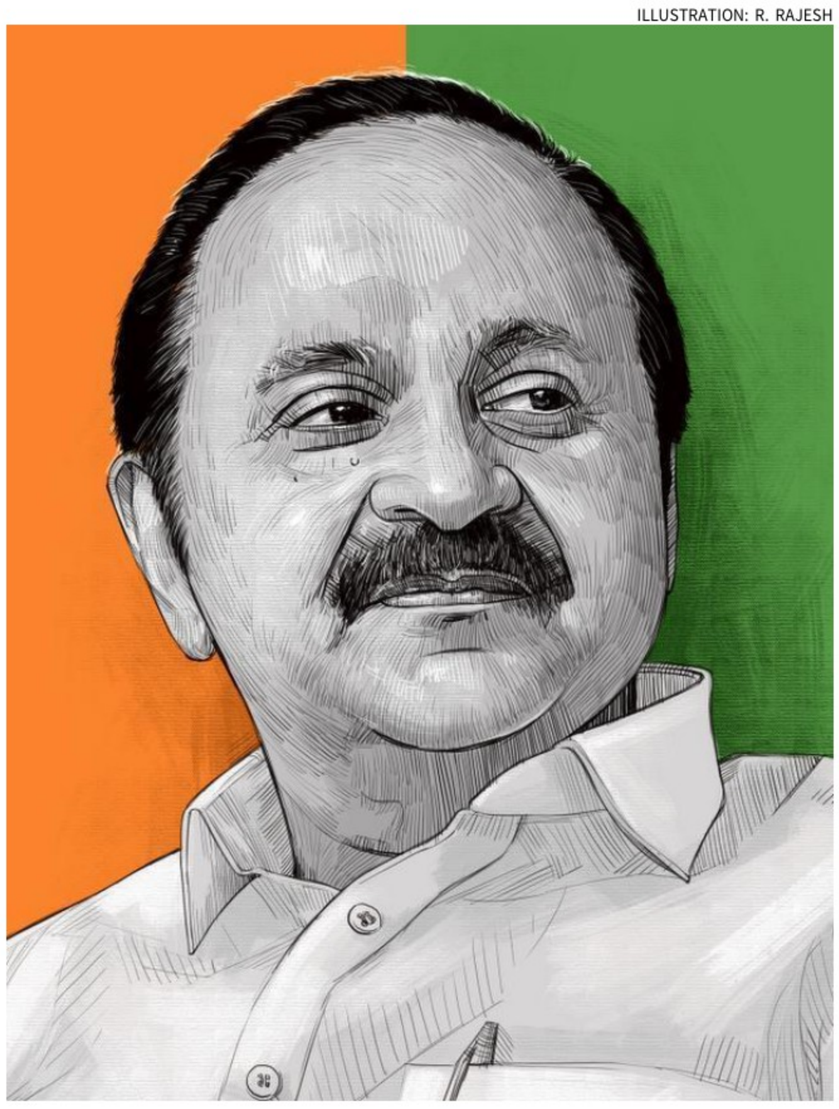
Pressure group

While being a junior Opposition legislator in the State Assembly, he joined hands with younger colleagues to form a pressure group, the Green MLAs, who espoused the cause of environmental protection. The youngsters highlighted several environmental concerns of the State, which caught the attention of Kerala, an environmentally sensitive State.

The five years of his political life as the Leader of the Opposition saw the emergence of an aggressive leader, who confronted the CPI(M) on the floor of the House. Reinvigorating the battle-weary organisation and its disillusioned cadres following two back-to-back electoral defeats was no easy task. A few prominent leaders left the organisation for the BJP after declaring that the days of the party were numbered in the State.

Several social groups, especially the minority communities, that once stood with the Congress had deserted the party. The United Democratic Front (UDF) was in shambles. The Kerala Congress (Mani), one of the founding members of the alliance, had shifted its allegiance to the LDF. Prominent Hindu social and caste organisations, the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) and the Nair Service Society (NSS), had publicly castigated him for his anti-communal stance.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



Yet, Mr. Satheesan never gave up.

Losses and defeats never doused his fighting spirit. He was often heard making light of the losses he encountered in his early political life including the president's posts of the Kerala Students Union, the Indian Youth Congress and the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee. He watched from the sidelines the ascent of his juniors to the leadership roles both in the organisation and the government.

Though it was widely expected that Mr. Satheesan, who outsmarted many of his colleagues in the Opposition benches, would join the 2011 Oommen Chandy government, luck didn't favour him.

Inspired by his calls for public resistance against the reported wrong policies of the 2021 LDF government, the Congress workers stormed the streets, women and youth activists defied water cannons and baton charges, threw themselves in front of the cavalcade of the Chief Minister and the State Ministers and staged black flag protests during the last five years of the LDF government.

Mr. Satheesan made good use of his tenure to bolster the electoral alliance with the tagline, Team UDF. The efforts proved useful at the most needed time, the selection of the Chief Minister, as all the front partners supported his claim. The political leader, who never refrained from publicly admonishing the erring party functionaries, also invested heavily in the young brigade of the party, which eventually saw at least 30 young leaders make their political debut in the 16th Legislative Assembly. The elections witnessed the Congress-led UDF winning 102 seats in the 140-member legislative Assembly and thus ending its political wilderness in the bipolar polity of the State. The party nearly tripled its strength in the house as its 63 candidates got elected.

Ideological framework

Mr. Satheesan also provided an ideological framework to his fight against the Left parties by claiming that the Congress was the true leftist organisation as the Left reportedly watered down its policies.

"We are the Nehruvian Left," he once asserted. The move came at a time when the CPI(M) was facing increasing instances of organisational schisms. The canny politician in Mr. Satheesan extended his support to the rebels, which saw two CPI(M) rebel leaders from Kannur and a former Minister from Alappuzha district win their seats. Several Congress candidates emerged victorious in constituencies which were once considered the Left citadels.

An avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, Mr. Satheesan often found time for literary and political conversations. Mr. Satheesan steps into the organisational vacuum created by the deaths of popular Congress leaders such as Karunakaran and Oommen Chandy, and the retreat from active politics of A.K. Antony – leaders who had endeared themselves to the masses with ease. And he carved out a niche for himself in the faction-ridden State unit of the party without identifying himself with any group or creating a fan base for himself.

THE GIST

- A post-graduate in Law and Social Work, V.D. Satheesan learned the early lessons of social and political engineering under the tutelage of former Minister G. Karthikeyan
- Though Satheesan was identified with the 'I' faction of the Congress during his early years of political career, he quickly moved away from the factions to assert his independent identity
- Satheesan, who has been consistently representing the Paravur Assembly constituency in Ernakulam district for six terms, began his political career with a defeat in his debut contest in 1996

From loyalist to rebel

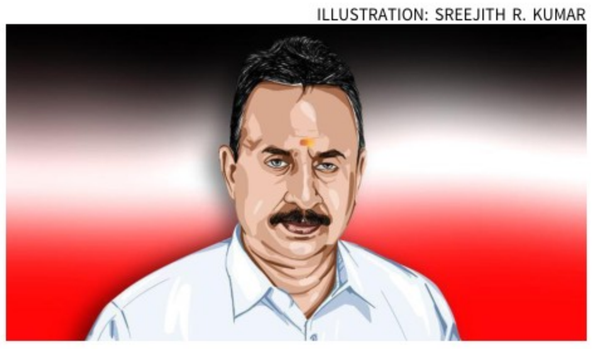
S.P. Velumani

Once seen as Edappadi Palaniswamy's trusted lieutenant, the AIADMK legislator and former Minister is now leading a revolt within the party following its electoral defeat

T. Ramakrishnan

In India's electoral politics, it is not uncommon for trusted lieutenants to turn against their mentors. A case in point is 57-year-old S.P. Velumani, Tamil Nadu's former Local Administration Minister in the AIADMK government, who is now leading colleagues against the party's general secretary and former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



In the formative years of Mr. Velumani's career, the goodwill he reportedly enjoyed from V.K. Sasikala, the confidante of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, and Ravanan, a relative of Ms. Sasikala who oversaw party affairs in the western region, helped him secure a political breakthrough. When Jayalalithaa returned as Chief Minister in May 2011, he was inducted into the Cabinet.

Mr. Velumani's exit from the Cabinet in January 2012 almost coincided with the arrest of Ravanan by the Coimbatore Rural Police in connection with a criminal case. He was reinducted into Jayalalithaa's Cabinet in May 2014, and entrusted with key portfolios, including Local Administration and Rural Development, positions he held for seven years at a stretch.

The high point of his career came after Mr. Palaniswami became Chief Minister in February 2017. In fact, after the Supreme Court upheld Ms. Sasikala's conviction in a disproportionate assets case involving Jayalalithaa, Mr. Velumani was among those who reportedly persuaded Ms. Sasikala to choose Mr. Palaniswami for the top post. Her original choice, K.A. Sengottaiyan, now a Minister in the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government, had declined to take up the job.

Driving force

Once Ms. Sasikala began serving her prison term in Bengaluru, Mr. Velumani quickly emerged as one of the driving forces behind the Palaniswami camp. Their roots in Tamil Nadu's western belt and affiliation to the Kongu Vellala Gounder community complemented the two leaders politically. Soon, Mr. Velumani came to be called the 'Man Friday' of Mr. Palaniswami, who, in turn, allowed greater space to the former to operate politically in the region. Over time, Mr. Velumani earned the sobriquet 'Coimbatore's Chief Minister'. From 2018 onwards, allegations were made by anti-corruption activists and his political adversaries that his relatives and aides secured high-value contracts awarded by local bodies. After the DMK formed the government in May 2021, the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, which conducted searches at 42 properties in Coimbatore district, named him as an accused in an additional affidavit filed before the Madras High Court last year. The case pertains to alleged irregularities in the award of contracts by the Greater Chennai and Coimbatore Corporations.

Mr. Velumani has remained a popular figure in his constituency, owing to the network he built and the way he cultivated support among electors in Thondamuthur. However, this time, he returned to the Assembly with a margin of less than 15,000 votes – a sharp decline from his earlier winning margins of around 40,000 to 60,000 votes.

Talks of a rift between the former Minister and his "benefactor" began circulating immediately after the party's debacle at the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Mr. Velumani had said his party would have won 35 to 40 seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry if it had faced the electorate in an alliance with the BJP.

In the run-up to the Assembly elections, the general expectation was that the AIADMK would not return to power but do well in the western belt. But the party's performance in the region proved disastrous. In Coimbatore district, Mr. Velumani was the only AIADMK candidate to win, in sharp contrast to the previous election when the party and its ally, the BJP, secured all 10 seats. It was in these circumstances that Mr. Velumani, along with party colleagues, including former Law Minister C.Ve. Shanmugam, raised the banner of revolt against Mr. Palaniswami and supported the TVK government.

Apparently, their game plan did not work, as the rebels could muster the support of only 25 legislators out of the AIADMK's 47, falling short of the required 32. Of late, Mr. Velumani has adopted a more conciliatory tone, stating that Mr. Palaniswami is the general secretary. Whether Mr. Velumani can bounce back or fade into oblivion remains to be seen.

Test in turmoil

NEET-UG

Following a question-paper leak, this year's medical entrance exam, taken by over 22 lakh students, has been cancelled and rescheduled

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

On May 12, the National Testing Agency (NTA), acting on inputs from central and law-enforcement agencies about a possible paper leak and examination irregularities in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test - Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2026, cancelled the entrance exam.

ANI

This isn't the first time that the exam or the agency conducting it has come under scrutiny over allegations of malpractice. However, this is the first time the annual, all-India medical entrance examination, conducted for admission to over 10 medical courses, has been cancelled. A retest has now been scheduled for June 21.

Through this exam, students compete for over 2.8 lakh seats for bachelor courses in dental surgery, veterinary science and animal husbandry, nursing, physiotherapy and audiology and speech-language pathology, among others. MBBS remains the most sought-after course, with around 1.29 lakh seats available. Admission to top government medical colleges typically requires a score of 650-720 marks.

The NEET-UG question paper consists of 180 compulsory questions with +4 marks awarded for every correct answer and –1 mark for every incorrect answer. NEET-UG is conducted in 13 languages and is an objective-type (multiple-choice) examination where each question has four answer options. The exam contains MCQs from Physics, Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology.

This year, NEET-UG was held on May 3, with about 22.79 lakh candidates registering for the exam, of whom around 22.05 lakh appeared. The exam was conducted at 5,432 centres across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad.

Following the paper leak, confirmed by the Central Government, it has been alleged that about 120-140 questions in the leaked question paper matched those in the actual NEET-UG 2026 exam. NTA Director General Abhishek Singh said the exam "cannot be permitted to stand" and that the decision to cancel it was taken to preserve the transparency, fairness, and credibility of the process.

The idea of an all-India common medical entrance exam was first proposed by the Medical Council of India (MCI) in 2010. A decade later, the MCI was dissolved amid allegations of corruption and lack of transparency, and replaced by the National Medical Commission.

Legal challenges

NEET, introduced to create a standardised, single admission test for medical institutions across India, was first conducted in 2013. The exam immediately faced legal challenges from several States and private colleges, prompting the Supreme Court to temporarily cancel it.

In 2016, the Supreme Court restored NEET, and since then it has been the mandatory entrance for admission to government, private, deemed, and central medical institutions, including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Besides the legal battles, NEET also faced allegations of language and syllabus disparities, paper leaks and grace-mark disputes in 2024. The K. Radhakrishnan committee, set up after the 2024 allegations, identified weak links in the system such as overdependence on outsourced staff and private centres, weak CCTV and surveillance systems, insecure transport and storage of question papers, and the risk of conducting a massive pen-and-paper exam for over 20 lakh students on a single day. It also recommended biometric verification, encrypted digital paper delivery and hybrid/online testing models.

Following the 2026 NEET-UG controversy, proposed changes for next year's exam include a likely shift from the offline Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) format to a Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on May 15 that the government plans major reforms to improve security and transparency.

The K. Radhakrishnan committee has also recommended that the NTA, established in 2017 by the Central Government as an autonomous testing organisation under the Ministry of Education, needs restructuring, along with tighter centre-level security for the exams it conducts. The NTA conducts several exams, including Joint Entrance Examination (Main), Common University Entrance Test, UGC - National Eligibility Test, and several recruitment and fellowship tests.

BEIRUT

Israel strikes southern Lebanon day after extension of ceasefire

AFP

Israel launched a series of air strikes on southern Lebanon on Saturday, despite the extension of the truce between the two countries. On Friday, the two countries agreed to extend a ceasefire, by another 45 days. Israel says it is targeting Hezbollah but the strikes were preceded by an evacuation warning. AFP

RAMALLAH

Israel killed man in West Bank camp, say Palestinian officials

AFP

Palestinian health officials said Israeli forces killed a man on Saturday in Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, while the military said troops fired as he tried to "infiltrate" the area. The Health Ministry in Ramallah identified the victim as 34-year-old Nour al-Din Kamal Hassan Fayyad. AFP

BANGKOK

A cargo train hits public bus at Bangkok rail crossing, killing eight

REUTERS

A train crashed into a public bus on Saturday in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, killing at least eight persons. Thai news reported the crash happened in the late afternoon near an airport railway station in the central area. The city's emergency services said at least eight persons were killed and over 20 others were injured. AP

DHAKA

Bangladesh anti-terrorism force arrests ex-soldier after attack plot

AFP

Bangladesh anti-terrorism police are questioning an ex-soldier, arrested after a manhunt that began last month following warnings of attacks targeting airports, Parliament and places of worship, police said on Saturday. The police said 23-year-old Mohammad Rahed Hossain Mahed was linked to a radical Islamist group. AFP

Putin to visit China on May 19, hot on heels of Trump's trip to Beijing

Putin and Xi will work to 'further strengthen the comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation'; the visit follows Trump's China trip, which did not resolve tensions over Ukraine or Iran; China has not condemned Russian invasion

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will travel to China on May 19 for a two-day visit, hot on the heels of U.S. President Donald Trump's trip to Beijing, the Kremlin said on Saturday.

During the trip, the Russian leader will discuss with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping how to "further strengthen the comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation" between Moscow and Beijing, according to a Kremlin statement.

Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi will "exchange views on key international and regional issues" and sign a joint declaration at the conclusion of their talks, it added.

Close ties: Xi Jinping shakes hands with Vladimir Putin following their talks at the Kremlin, in Moscow in 2025. REUTERS

As part of the visit, Mr. Putin is also scheduled to discuss economic and trade cooperation with Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

The announcement of Mr. Putin's trip comes just after Mr. Trump wrapped up on Friday the first visit to China by a U.S. President in nearly a decade, with the grand reception belying a roster of unresolved trade and geopolitical tensions, including over the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Although Mr. Trump and Mr. Xi discussed the more than four-year-long conflict – as well as the U.S. leader's stalemated war with Iran – the Republican President took off from China without appearing to secure a breakthrough on either front.

Negotiations to end the fighting in Ukraine, brokered by the United States, have appeared stalled since the beginning of the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran which broke out on February 28. Before Mr. Trump arrived in China, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy asked the U.S. leader to raise the matter of how to stop the conflict during talks with Mr. Xi.

Moscow has ruled out a ceasefire or comprehensive negotiations with Ukraine unless Kyiv caves to the Kremlin's maximalist demands.

While China has regularly called for talks to end the fighting, it has never condemned Russia for sending troops into Ukraine and presents itself as a neutral party.

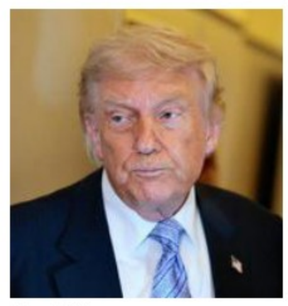
IS leader killed in Nigeria in joint operation: Trump

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. and Nigerian forces killed a leader of the Islamic State group in Nigeria in a mission carried out on Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump said.

Mr. Trump announced the joint operation in Africa's most populous country in a late-night social media post. He said Abu Bakr al-Mainuki was second-in-command of the Islamic State group globally and "thought he could hide in Africa, but little did he know we had sources who kept us informed on what he was doing".

Al-Mainuki was viewed as the key figure in IS organising and finance, and had been plotting attacks against the United States and its interests, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.



Donald Trump

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu confirmed the operation and said Al-Mainuki was killed alongside "several of his lieutenants, during a strike on his compound in the Lake Chad Basin".

The joint operation is the latest by both countries since their new security partnership that kicked off last year after Mr. Trump claimed Christians were being targeted in Nigeria's security crisis and threatened U.S. military intervention. Residents and security analysts have said Nigeria's security crisis affects both Christians, predominant in the south, and Muslims, who are the majority in the north.

According to the spokesperson for the Nigerian military task force that carried out the Friday operation, the mission was a "highly complex precision air-land operation" and was carried out during three hours of darkness early Saturday without any casualties or loss of assets.

The Friday night operation was the latest instance in a string of covert missions abroad that Mr. Trump has announced this year.

Streeting 'will run to replace Starmer' as Prime Minister

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Wes Streeting, who resigned as U.K. Health Secretary this week, announced on Saturday he will run to replace Keir Starmer as Labour leader and Prime Minister, after the party suffered disastrous local election results.

Mr. Streeting quit the government on Thursday with a withering assessment of Mr. Starmer's leadership. The 43-year-old MP did not immediately trigger a leadership contest. Later that day, Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham unveiled a bid to become an MP which, if successful, would allow the 56-year-old to stand in that contest.

Wes Streeting

While still not announcing he has kickstarted the formal leadership challenge process, Mr. Streeting confirmed on Saturday he will vie to replace Mr. Starmer and become the centre-left Labour's new leader.

'European countries in talks with Tehran for Hormuz transit'

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian state television said on Saturday that European countries were in talks with Tehran over transit for ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

"Following the passage of ships from East Asian countries, notably China, Japan and Pakistan, we received information today indicating that Europeans have also begun negotiations with the Revolutionary Guards navy" to get permission to pass, state television reported, without specifying which countries.

Iran has largely blocked shipping through the vital strait since the outbreak of war with the United States and Israel on February 28. A fragile ceasefire has been in place since April 8.

Iran has in recent days allowed passage for dozens of ships including from China "after an agreement on Iran's strait management protocols," the Islamic Republic of Iran Guard Corps, the ideological arm of Iran's military, said in a statement.

On Saturday, Ebrahim Azizi, head of the Iranian parliament's national security commission, said Iran "has prepared a professional mechanism to manage traffic" through the strait, adding that it will be "unveiled soon".

Pakistan is set to raise its IMF-backed defence Budget by nearly PKR 100 bn

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is expected to raise its defence Budget by about PKR 100 billion in the upcoming fiscal year as the government prepares its Budget under an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed reform programme that projects a sharp rise in revenues, according to a media report.

The *Dawn* newspaper, citing the IMF staff report issued after the completion of the third review of the $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review of the $1.4 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), reported that defence expenditure for 2026-27 was estimated at Pakistani rupees (PKR) Rs 2.665 trillion, up from PKR 2.564 trillion this year.

More funding: Pakistani army soldiers sit in a vehicle as they patrol at D Chowk near the President's House in Islamabad. REUTERS

The IMF projected Pakistan's total federal revenues for 2026-27 at PKR 17.144 trillion – that's more than PKR 2 trillion higher than the current fiscal year and represents a 13.5% increase, the report said.

It said Pakistan had also committed to increasing the combined expenditure of the federal and provincial governments by 0.2% of GDP to a total of PKR 4.227 trillion, while digitising all federal and provincial government payments by June 2027.

As part of wider reforms linked to the IMF programme, the government will identify the 10 top corruption-prone institutions by the end of this year for detailed analysis and audit. The provincial anti-corruption agencies are also expected to be strengthened.

The government has also given an undertaking not to introduce new incentives for special economic zones, export processing zones, and special technology zones, while phasing out existing incentives by 2035 to create what the report described as a level playing field for all.

THE HINDU GROUP
WHEN THE WORLD BRINGS UNCERTAINTY
CONVERSATION BRINGS CLARITY
The world we live in tends to surprise us periodically. And in our interconnected times, these surprises are rarely limited to their points of origin.
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STRONG BACKING

Bethell is a world-class player: RCB bowling coach Salvi

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Jacob Bethell has proven himself on the world stage that he is a great batter. And in this format (T20), he is a world-class player. So, it doesn't matter what position he is batting in. He is such a mature player who adapts himself. So, it (poor fiorm) s not a problem for us — Omkar Salvi, Royal Challengers Bengaluru bowling coach.

DIFFERENT APPROACH

Kings' physio Leipus turns up for pre-match media interaction

R.V. MOORTHY

Punjab Kings sent out head of sports science Andrew Leipus for the pre-match press meet ahead of its tie against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Despite limited knowledge of the team's tactical prep, the physiotherapist assured Kings were in high spirits in spite of their poor run. "The guys have stuck together. They are up for it".

VALUABLE TIP

You don't captain when you bat: Sangakkara's advice to Parag

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Riyan Parag has three roles: captain, leader and batter. While captaincy and leadership go hand-in-hand, he just has to enjoy his batting. The conversation is about making sure that he's batting as Riyan Parag the batter. You don't captain when you bat — Kumar Sangakkara, Rajasthan Royals head coach and director of cricket.

A POINT TO PROVE

Axar is desperate to do well for Capitals and himself, says Bell

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Delhi Capitals assistant coach Ian Bell brushed aside concerns over skipper Axar Patel's inconsistent campaign. "He's more disappointed than anyone. He's desperate to do well for this franchise and for himself. We know what he can do at its best, and we've got to keep supporting him through that," said Bell.

Allen, Raghuvanshi and Narine help Knight Riders stay alive

The opener slams a 35-ball 93; the No. 3 batter adds 108 off just 52 deliveries for the unbroken third wicket with Green to take the home team to 247; poor catching hurts Titans; the wily spinner returns figures of two for 29 to thwart the visitor

IPL-19

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders rode on blistering knocks by Finn Allen (93), Angkrish Raghuvanshi (82 not out), and Cameron Green (52 not out) to get the better of Gujarat Titans by 29 runs in a high-scoring IPL 2026 contest at the Eden Gardens here on Saturday.

After logging its highest total of the season (247 for two), with some assistance from the visiting side's fielders' largesse, KKR restricted GT to 218 for four to stay alive in the race for the playoffs.

Allen took his time to understand the conditions – as the ball held on to the wicket a bit in humid conditions – before unleashing his strokes. Using his timing and fast hands, predominantly on the onside, he cashed in on two lives, on 14 and 33, to hammer the GT bowlers.

Sai Kishore had Allen, who added 44 with skipper Ajinkya Rahane and 95 with Raghuvanshi for the first two wickets, caught at deep midwicket.

Raghuvanshi, enjoying a lucky DRS call early on, played some superb shots – including a brave scooped six off Kagiso Rabada. He displayed awareness and temperament to get to his fifth half-century this season.

Raghuvanshi, who had a reprieve on 52 off Rabada, later took 24 off a 25-run penultimate over bowled by Mohammed Siraj. Cameron Green, who was let off by Arshad Khan on 23 off Rashid Khan, impressed with his pulled hits to the boundary. He formed an unbeaten 108-run stand off 52 balls with Raghuvanshi.

The architects: Allen and Raghuvanshi lit up Eden with some dazzling strokeplay before Narine scalped Gill to turn the contest in favour of KKR. K.R. DEEPAK

During GT's chase, Sunil Narine dismissed Nishant Sindhu for one after opener Sai Sudharsan retired hurt.

KKR, despite losing Matheesha Pathirana to a hamstring issue, applied the brakes in the Power-Play (56 for one).

GT skipper Shubman Gill (85) proved his class yet again to score his fifth fifty in this edition.

Excelling on either side, Jos Buttler supported Gill as the duo collected 128 runs off 73 balls.

A limping Varun Chakaravarthy, nursing a foot injury, bowled well until Gill gathered 22 runs off his final over.

The wily Narine scalped Gill in the 17th over to put the pressure back on GT.

Sai Sudharsan returned to join Buttler. But the two could not achieve the target as GT's wait for a playoffs berth lingered on.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Ajinkya Rahane b Siraj 14 *(14b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Finn Allen c Rashid b Sai Kishore 93 *(35b, 4x4, 10x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi (not out) 82 *(44b, 4x4, 7x6)*, Cameron Green (not out) 52 *(28b, 3x4, 4x6)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-4): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 247.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-44 (Rahane, 4.3 overs), 2-139 (Allen, 11.2).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-50-1, Rabada 4-0-40-0, Holder 4-0-39-0, Rashid 4-0-57-0, Sai Kishore 3-0-38-1, Arshad 1-0-22-0.

GUJARAT TITANS
Sai Sudharsan (not out) 53 *(28b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Shubman Gill c Anukul b Narine 85 *(49b, 5x4, 7x6)*, Nishant Sindhu c Pandey b Narine 1 *(4b)*, Jos Buttler c sub (Ramandeep) b Saurabh 57 *(35b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Rahul Tewatia **(Impact Player for Siraj)** c Raghuvanshi b Green 2 *(4b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-8, w-11): 20; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 218.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-49 (Nishant, 4.1), 2-177 (Gill, 16.2), 3-207 (Buttler, 18.5), 4-218 (Tewatia, 19.6).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Saurabh 2.4-0-23-1, Green 3-0-25-1, Tyagi 4-0-59-0, Pathirana **(Impact Player for Allen)** 1.2-0-9-0, Narine 4-0-29-2, Varun 4-0-47-0, Anukul 1-0-17-0.
Toss: GT; **PoM:** Narine.
KKR won by 29 runs.

Next assignment

KKR: May 20 vs. MI
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

GT: May 21 vs. CSK
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

Will PBKS overcome its hoodoo against RCB?

Abhishek Saini
DHARAMSHALA

Five losses on the bounce have left Punjab Kings with the unenviable task of taking down defending champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru to keep its playoffs hopes alive.

In what could be the defining game of their IPL 2026 season here on Sunday, the baggage of an unfavourable head-to-head record and a string of losses at the HPCA Stadium only add to the Kings' quandary.

Since 2023, PBKS has just one win in seven games at the venue. And Virat Kohli's crowd-pulling presence might leave it with thin support at its 'adopted' home. It will also have to put the horrors of consecutive playoffs losses to RCB behind it.

In the first of those defeats, in the first Qualifier in 2025, Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar had torn through PBKS' top-order. Bhuvneshwar, surfing the high of a purple patch, could again disrupt up front, having had the better of Prabhsimran Singh four times in nine innings.

"For us, Bhuvneshwar did well last season also. This season, it is a different role for him. He is a world-class bowler and you know what skill set he has. He is just enjoying his bowling and expressing himself freely," said Omkar Salvi, RCB's bowling coach.

Though just one win away from sealing a top-four spot, RCB has its own batting frailties to tend to. Kohli comes on the back of a record-extending ninth IPL century, but his back-to-back ducks in the preceding two games give PBKS a plan to attack him with seam.

Jacob Bethell averages just 14.17 this season, which has left RCB without the explosive starts that it was accustomed to with Phil Salt. Down the order, Jitesh Sharma's woeful run is probably the biggest concern for RCB as it gears up for post-season.

Interesting match-up: The battle between Kings' Vyshak and Royal Challengers' Padikkal could be riveting. R.V. MOORTHY

Today's matches

Dharamshala, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 37
PBKS 18 | RCB 19
PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by six runs, 2025

Delhi, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
DC 16 | RR 15
PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by seven wickets, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Capitals run into inconsistent Royals in a do-or-die clash

Anirudh Velamuri
NEW DELHI

The IPL playoffs are drawing closer, but certainty remains elusive. Delhi Capitals stands with its backs against the wall, clinging to fading hopes and fragile momentum. At the same time, for Rajasthan Royals, the fear is not immediate collapse but the slow, familiar unravelling of another promising season.

Under the lights at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Sunday, these two sides and their desperation will take centre-stage.

Still alive but barely so, the equation is simple for the Capitals: win both remaining matches and hope results elsewhere fall into place.

Time to shine: Capitals will expect Rahul to fire on all cylinders at the top. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Even perfection may not suffice, with an unhelpful Net Run Rate of -0.993 leaving them with little control over their fate.

Their hopes rest heavily on a top-order searching for rhythm, particularly K.L. Rahul. Elegant for much of the season, Rahul arrives at a critical juncture carrying the weight of four consecutive low scores. The team will also welcome David Miller's return to the line-up.

This clash could be the turnaround, with Royals' domestic pacers having struggled under pressure. Tushar Deshpande has leaked 12.1 runs per over this year and Sandeep Sharma 10.9, while Brijesh Sharma has oscillated between incisive and expensive.

Even Jofra Archer, usually the great disruptor, has looked vulnerable recently, conceding 12 an over (with two wickets) across his last three outings.

Should that trend continue, the home side will back itself to post a formidable total or chase one down confidently.

RR, meanwhile, needs to arrest a repetitive second-half slide urgently. While Vaibhav Sooryavanshi saddles much of the load, Yashasvi Jaiswal has faded: 132 runs at 18.9 across his last seven innings after a blistering start.

Dhruv Jurel has followed a similar arc, averaging just 19.7 over the same stretch.

Combined with an inconsistent middle-order, RR's drift down the table begins to look less surprising and more inevitable.

It has been a crazy season: DC's Bell

Anirudh Velamuri
NEW DELHI

Not much has gone right for Delhi Capitals this IPL season. After cruising to a win over Mumbai Indians in its backyard, DC, for most part, has been either comprehensively outplayed or left to endure heartbreaks.

Assistant coach Ian Bell didn't sugarcoat reality. "It has been a crazy season. We scored 264 (vs. Punjab Kings) and followed that up by getting all out for 75 (vs. Royal Challengers Bengaluru). You can't win competitions if you're that inconsistent. In front of your home fans, you want to make it a fortress."

Bell termed "instability" as the defining factor between Capitals and the teams in the top four.

"The combinations haven't quite worked for us. Players need to take the opportunities and turn them into match-winning performances."

He also marked DC's prime target for Sunday. "When you play Rajasthan Royals, he (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi) is the prized wicket."

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers	12	8	4	0	16	1.053
Gujarat Titans	13	8	5	0	16	0.400
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	12	6	5	1	13	0.355
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Chennai Super Kings	12	6	6	0	12	0.027
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	6	1	11	-0.038
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Mumbai Indians (E)	12	4	8	0	8	-0.504
Lucknow Super Giants (E)	12	4	8	0	8	-0.701

E: Eliminated

Suryakumar's place in T20I squad under the scanner

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Suryakumar Yadav's prolonged lean patch with the bat could have ramifications beyond the IPL, with his T20I captaincy and even his place in the squad will come under scrutiny ahead of India's tour of Ireland next month.

The Hindu understands that India's T20I succession plan is expected to be informally discussed during the senior national selection committee meeting in Guwahati on May 19.

It will be the first in-person meeting of the selection panel since India's T20 World Cup triumph on March 8 under Suryakumar's leadership.

Suryakumar's "evident struggles" with the bat – first during the World Cup and now in the IPL – have prompted some within the decision-making group to acknowledge that the transition process may need to begin sooner than later.

INBRIEF

McNealy and Smalley share the lead at difficult Aronimink

Americans Maverick McNealy and Alex Smalley shared the lead after Friday's chaotic second round of the PGA Championship as cold conditions contributed to carnage at Aronimink. Six others were only one adrift after 36 holes with seven more, including top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler, just two strokes off the lead entering the weekend.

Leading scores (second round, par-70): 136: Maverick McNealy 69-67, Alex Smalley 67-69.

137: Max Greyserman 68-69, Christopher Gotterup 72-65, Min Woo Lee 67-70, Stephan Jager 67-70, Hideki Matsuyama 70-67, Aldrich Potgieter 67-70.

138: Kim Si-Woo 71-67, David Puig 71-67, Ludvig Aberg 72-66, Justin Thomas 69-69, Harris English 71-67, Scottie Scheffler 67-71, Cameron Young 71-67.

Son to lead South Korea at his fourth World Cup

Son Heung-min was named in South Korea's squad for his fourth World Cup on Saturday. South Korea is drawn in Group A with co-host Mexico, the Czech Republic and South Africa. It will take on the Czechs in its opener on June 11.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Jo Hyeon-woo, Kim Seung-gyu, Song Bum-keun; **Defenders:** Kim Moon-hwan, Kim Min-jae, Kim Tae-hyon, Park Jin-seob, Seol Young-woo, Jens Castrop, Lee Ki-hyuk, Lee Tae-seok, Lee Han-beom, Cho Yu-min; **Midfielders:** Kim Jin-gyu, Bae Jun-ho, Paik Seung-ho, Yang Hyun-jun, Eom Ji-sung, Lee Kang-in, Lee Dong-gyeong, Lee Jae-sung, Hwang In-beom, Hwang Hee-chan; **Forwards:** Son Heung-min, Oh Hyeon-gyu, Cho Gue-sung.

Manchester City beats Chelsea to win FA Cup

Manchester City beat Chelsea 1-0 on Saturday to win the FA Cup and complete a domestic cup double. Antoine Semenyo scored in the 72nd minute to ensure City prevailed after two successive FA Cup final defeats.

Naqvi to attend ICC Board meeting virtually

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi will not travel to Ahmedabad for the ICC Annual Board Meeting scheduled on May 31 on the sidelines of the Indian Premier League (IPL) final. However, it is learnt that he will attend the ICC Board of Directors meeting virtually – a provision routinely available to member representatives unable to travel in person. Naqvi had not been expected to make the trip to India. Sources aware of the developments indicated to *The Hindu* that his participation through video conference will be in line with standard ICC protocol.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs Pakistan: 2nd Test, day 2, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 4, 6.30 & 9.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 5, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 10.30 p.m. & 12.45 a.m. (Monday)

Clinical Smith too good for Sekulic

In doubles, the unseeded Poonacha-Myneni combo notches up a first tournament win by getting the better of Biryukov-Lomakin

TENNIS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Triumphant: Singles champion Smith and doubles titlists Poonacha and Myneni. K. MURALI KUMAR

A clinical Keegan Smith outclassed Philip Sekulic 6-2, 7-5 in the final to emerge as the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger singles champion at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Saturday.

The Indian duo of Niki Poonacha and Saketh Myneni took top honours in doubles, defeating Petr Bar Biryukov-Grigoriy Lomakin 6-2, 6-3 in the summit clash. The unseeded Poonacha-Myneni notched up a first tournament win together. The occasion was particularly sweet for Poonacha, who claimed a maiden Challenger title in his home city.

"We decided to play together just last week," 38-year-old Myneni said.

Myneni stated that the pairing worked well because Poonacha's aggressive game complements his measured style.

Poonacha and Myneni took home $2,980 and 50 ATP points.

In the singles, Smith's all-round game won the day. The 6'7" American showed fantastic court coverage to frustrate Sekulic (world no. 357). When top-seed Smith came to the net, his soft touch – evidenced by a delicious backhand half-volley in the first set – drew applause from the crowd.

Sekulic's electric forehand, which worked so well in his semifinal win over Kriish Tyagi, could not find the mark on Saturday. Smith (world no. 289) did not make it easy either, keeping his returns deep and flat.

Smith claimed $9,500 and 50 ATP ranking points, while Sekulic collected $5,500 and 25 ATP points.

The results (final): Keegan Smith (USA) bt Philip Sekulic (Aus) 6-2, 7-5.
Doubles: Niki Poonacha & Saketh Myneni bt Petr Bar Biryukov & Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 6-2, 6-3.

Bengaluru FC brings CFC's dismal season to an end with a 2-1 win

ISL

Joan Mathew Jacob
CHENNAI

On a high: Kom, right, peels off in celebration with Williams after scoring Bengaluru's winner. R. RAGU

Chennaiyin FC did not have a smooth ride into the sunset as it ended its already dismal Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 campaign with a 1-2 loss against Bengaluru FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Saturday.

Daniel Chima Chukwu and Ryan Williams traded strikes in the first half, before debutant Serto Worneilen Kom bagged a late winner, leaving Chennaiyin 13th in the table with just nine points.

In sweltering conditions, Bengaluru asserted control courtesy of its four-man midfield with Braian Sanchez and Soham Varshneya testing the opposition goalkeeper.

But for all its dominance, it was Chennaiyin that surprisingly broke the deadlock. Chima started the swift move by winning the ball in the middle of the pitch and distributing it before running up to take William pulled off a crisp one-touch move with Lalremtluanga Fanai to set himself up for an easy finish from close range.

The visitors sealed the game in the closing stages of a drab second half after Williams breached the box before cutting the ball back to Fanai. Pritam Kotal stood strong to block his shot, only to see the loose ball smashed into an empty goal by substitute Kom, who took advantage of a snoozing defence.

Bengaluru kept its mathematical title chances alive and temporarily leads the standings with 23 points.

The results: Chennaiyin FC 1 (Chima 34) lost to Bengaluru FC 2 (Ryan 43, Kom 89). **At Fatorda:** Odisha FC 2 (Suhair 71, Kartik 90+6) lost to Punjab FC 3 (Kipgen 69, Osuji 89, Ramirez 90+4).

No coach, no problem for improving golfer Pukhraj

S. Shrivathsan

On the rise: Pukhraj feels his first title outside India would be a morale-booster. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Things are finally falling into place for Indian golfer Pukhraj Singh Gill.

The 29-year-old, who by no means burst onto the scene, has been seeing the fruits of his labour over the last nine months. Pukhraj emerged as the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) Order of Merit winner in its inaugural season in 2025 and added a bullet point to his CV with his maiden Asian Development Tour (ADT) victory in Kuala Lumpur last week.

The Ludhiana man felt that his first title outside India would be a morale-booster. "It is a huge motivation because I have accomplished something that I set out to achieve. I feel that my two professional wins have come in quick succession (he emerged victorious in the IGPL Invitational Jamshedpur in November), and I see the transition from a national to an international event," Pukhraj told *The Hindu* during a virtual interaction.

"...I am getting closer to becoming an 'overall player'; I sense that I have the ability to play nationally and internationally. That is very assuring," added Pukhraj, who hails from a sporting family.

The "winds of change" began to blow about three years ago.

"I have not had a coach for three or four years now. It took me a while to learn about my style and find the mindset with which I could play my best. It took me two or three years, up until 2023. After that, I started playing much better as I felt that I grew both mentally and physically. The last two or three years have been very good in terms of consistency."

Litton. AFP

Litton helps Bangladesh score 278

Associated Press
SYLHET

Wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das hit a sublime century as Bangladesh recovered from early trouble on the opening day of the second and final Test against Pakistan at Sylhet on Saturday. He hammered 126 off 159 balls with 16 fours and two sixes to help Bangladesh post 278 in its first innings before Pakistan reached 21 without loss at stumps.

The scores: Bangladesh 278 in 77 overs (Litton 126, Khurram Shahzad 4/81, Abbas 3/45) vs Pakistan 21/0 in 6 overs. **Toss:** Pakistan.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

SWAB office-bearers
The Sports Writers Association of Bangalore (SWAB), at its Annual General Body (AGM) held on Saturday, unanimously elected the following office-bearers and executive committee members for the 2026-28 tenure.
Office-bearers: President: Manuja Veerappa (*The Times of India*); **Vice-president:** G. Unnikrishnan (*PTI*); **Secretary:** Girish Doddamani (*Prajavani*); **Joint-secretary:** K. Manjunatha (*Vijaya Karnataka*); **Treasurer:** N. Sudarshan (*The Hindu*).
Executive Committee: Ashwin Achal (*The Hindu*); Kaushik Rangarajan (*Cricbuzz*); Ashish Pant (*ESPN Cricinfo*); Spandan Kaniyar (*Kannada Prabha*); Chitrangada Datta Chaudhuri (*The Times of India*); Gururaj B.S. (*Vijayavani*); Vignesh Bharadwaj (*Deccan Herald*).

Victoria has it easy
Victoria FC hit six goals past Yelahanka FC to no reply in a Group-C match of the KSFA C-division league football championship on Saturday.
Other results: Group-C: Play 365 bt Black Moon 1-0; Ronaldo FC Bengaluru bt Annsh SC 4-2; **Group-D:** Blue Diamond drew with DB United 1-1; RVFC bt MRFC 1-0; Agniputhra bt Pioneer FC Bangalore 3-0.

Akarsh slams ton
Akarsh M. Appinakatte scored an unbeaten century (120 n.o.) as Viveknagar Cricketers beat The Bangalore Cricketers by 166 runs in the KSCA (U-16) inter-club tournament.
The scores: Vivekanagar Cricketers 295/6 in 50 overs (Akarsh M. Appinakatte 120 n.o., Dushyanth Gowda 44) bt The Bangalore Cricketers 129 in 32.1 overs.
BUCC (1) 322/4 in 50 overs (S.M. Bhavith 94, M. Lakshmi Narayan 64, Aarav Bajaj 108 n.o.) bt Whirlwind Cricketers 184 in 48.4 overs (Shubhan Hiremath 57).
Swastic Union (2) 189/6 in 50 overs (Vivaan Balamahesh 45) lost to Blue Diamond Cricketers 190/5 in 34 overs (Tambrahalli Samanyu 62, Siddharth Ram Narayan 59 n.o.).
City Gymkhana 255/8 in 50 overs (Arnav N. Manchale 59, Vedant Shaurya 47) bt Mount Joy 149 in 41 overs.
Herons 182 in 44.2 overs (Ashwwath Nagarajan 59) lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers 186/5 in 38.4 overs (Yadalla Kushaal Krishna 99 n.o., Ramnath Nayak 43).
Visweswarapuram (2) 163 in 33 overs lost to Johnson 166/6 in 32.3 overs (S. Harikrishna 58 n.o., Rajdeep Banerjee 51 n.o.).

Macneil Noronha smashes double hundred
Macneil Noronha smashed a double century (249) as Cambridge CC thrashed Hammonds CC by 318 runs in the KSCA Y.S. Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for fourth and fifth division clubs recently.
The scores: Cambridge 448 in 50 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 249, J. Sukruth 79 bt Hammonds 130 in 34.4 overs (Vishruth Uday Krishna 44, Pranav Aswath 4/36).
Minerva 249 in 47 overs (Arnav Arun Bharadwaj 65) bt Bangalore Indian 164 in 42.2 overs (Ashwin Tantry 46).
South End SC 305 in 45.3 overs (T.M. Nagarjun 67, B.K. Shashank 128, Stalin Hoover 42, J.P. Aravind 6/66) bt Wilson Garden 255 in 50 overs (Akshay A. Kamath 43, Sharana Basava 46, J.P. Aravind 66).
Chintamani SA 397/9 in 50 overs (Aaron Cyril Christie 155, Revanth Bairy 159) bt City Gymkhana 159 in 31 overs (H.P. Abhishek 5/22, Ajay Bhide 4/46).
Whirlwind Cricketers 279 in 50 overs (Tejas Reddy 116, Raunak 4/29) bt Friends Cricket Team 223/8 in 50 overs (Vaishnav D. Sanghamiitra 42, Y.M. Bharath 41 n.o., Babu Gaddam 4/36).
Chamarajpet 224 in 45.5 overs (V. Akhilesh 99, Ashwin Kumar 40, N. Shiva Kumar 41, Anirudha A. Joshi 4/14) lost to Bangalore SC 230/4 in 35.2 overs (Anirudha A Joshi 136, R. Yuvraj 43).
Bangalore Occasionals 242 in 47.2 overs (Suraj Ahuja 36, Melu Kranthi Kumar 40, Rajvir Wadhwa 73, Amrith Praveen 4/46, Ronak Yelwal 4/54) bt Friends Union (1) 240 in 49.1 overs (Sidharth Akhil 59, Dhruv Modhe 61 n.o.).
Jayanagar United Cricketers 113 in 29.4 overs (Sachin Shinde 5/14) lost to Vijaya 115/1 in 9.3 overs (Anvay Dravid 53 n.o., Dhruv Krishnan 48).
Neptune 161 in 30.1 overs (Prabhu Sasalatti 42 n.o.) lost to BUCC (1) 162/2 in 24.1 overs (Sharath Srinivas 67, Kishan S. Bedare 56 n.o.).

Star Glory clinches B.T.C. Charitable Trust Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Narredu trained Star Glory (Yash up) won the B.T.C. Charitable Trust Trophy (1,400m), the main event of the races held here on Saturday (May 16). The winner is owned by Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer S. Narredu won three races on the day.

1. QUASAR PLATE (DIV. II), 1,400M: ACANTHA (Trevor) 1, Art Of Romance (Kiran Rai) 2, Star Comet (Rayan) 3 and Real Happiness (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 1-1/2, 2-1/2 and 1/2. 1m 27.28s. Rs. 20 (w), 12, 12 and 19 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 42, FP: 79, Q: 40, Trinella: 320/192, Exacta: 1,768/1,118. Favourite: Acantha.
Owners: Mr. Chethan Neelakanta & Mr. Y.S. Harsha. Trainer: K. Purshotham.

2. ICH DIEN PLATE (1,400M): SUPREME SUCCESS (Suraj) 1, Royal Jewel (Akshay K) 2, Vafadar (Aditya W) 3 and Magna Carta (Vinod Shinde) 4. 2-1/4, 3/4 and 3. 1m 27.45s. Rs. 23 (w), 11, 11 and 14 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 35, FP: 38, Q: 19, Trinella: 103/60, Exacta: 304/135. Favourite: Royal Jewel.
Owner: Mr. K.N. Ramaraju. Trainer: S. Narredu.

3. QUASAR PLATE (DIV. I), 1,400M: BAASHHA (S. Sachin) 1, Exceed (J. Chinoy) 2, Noble Cause (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Feeling Good (Suhas K) 4. 1-3/4, 3-1/4 and 3. 1m 26.13s. Rs. 34 (w), 16, 10 and 32 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 54, FP: 107, Q: 43, Trinella: 685/433, Exacta: 1,782/520. Favourite: Exceed.
Owner: Mr. Santhosh. P. Trainer: Joseph B. Awale.

4. B.T.C. CHARITABLE TRUST TROPHY (1,400M): STAR GLORY (Yash) 1, Global Influence (Suraj) 2, Don Carlos (Akshay K) 3 and Ricardo (Aleemuddin) 4. 1-3/4, Snk and 8. 1m 25.37s. Rs. 79 (w), 24 and 10 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 23, FP: 148, Q: 74, Trinella: 357/267, Exacta: 338/120. Favourite: Global Influence.
Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

5. STAR CONTENDER PLATE (1,200M): SHINING WAYS (Suraj) 1, Regal Beauty (Akshay K) 2, Burevestnik (Shreyas S) 3 and Personal Legend (A. Ramu) 4. 1, 2 and 1. 1m 13.44s. Rs. 41 (w), 13, 18 and 11 (p), SHP: 51, THP: 40, FP: 281, Q: 133, Trinella: 847/355, Exacta: 9,665/6,903. Favourite: Burevestnik.
Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Teja Gollapudi, Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: S. Narredu.

6. MANITOU PLATE (1,200M): SOLARA (Akshay K) 1, Darrington (Arvind K) 2, Hushed (Rafique S.K) 3 and Khazana (Neeraj) 4. 2-1/2, Snk and 2-3/4. 1m 13.38s. Rs. 17 (w), 10, 14 and 76 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 151, FP: 36, Q: 25, Trinella: 911/708, Exacta: 1,866/417. Favourite: Solara.
Owners: M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd & Mr. S.R. Sanas'. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.
Jackpot: Rs. 17,682; Runner up: 4,021; Mini Jackpot: 9,090; Treble (i): 550; (ii): 1,471.

Moonveil, Iron Mirage may fight out the finish

BENGALURU: Moonveil and Iron Mirage may fight out the finish of the War Hammer Million (1,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday. There will be no false rails.

1 NEWMARKET PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 3.00 p.m.: 1. Windcleaver (6) Vishwa V 62.5, 2. Days Date (4) Vishal 62, 3. Mega Success (11) Arul J.H 59.5, 4. Mericle Beauty (7) Kiran Rai 58, 5. Sling Shot (1) Faizan Khan 58, 6. Breeze Bluster (3) Vaibhav 57, 7. N R I Millennium (2) Arshad 56.5, 8. Double Scotch (10) I. Chisty 55, 9. N R I Gold (9) Aditya W 54.5, 10. Embosom (5) Vinod Shinde 54 and 11. Emeraldo (8) Sai Kiran 52.5.

1. WINDCLEAVER, 2. MEGA SUCCESS, 3. N R I GOLD

2 SWEET MEMORIES PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3.30: 1. Unforgettable Star (9) A.A. Vikrant 62.5, 2. Hidden Dreams (10) M. Rajesh K 56, 3. Knotty Cruise (1) Antony 56, 4. Dream Walkin' (8) Neeraj 55, 5. Absolute Katrina (6) Arul J.H 54.5, 6. Joyful Spirit (5) Kiran Rai 53, 7. Absolute Thunder (2) Sai Kiran 52.5, 8. Double Your Money (3) Rafique S.K 52.5, 9. Tiger Bay (4) Trevor 52.5 and 10. Turf Paradise (7) Ashhad Asbar 52.5.

1. KNOTTY CRIESE, 2. TIGER BAY, 3. DREAM WALKIN'

3 AIHOLE PLATE (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 4.00: 1. Stellantis (5) Shreyas S 60, 2. Dun It Again (3) Suhas K 59, 3. N R I Ace (1) Arshad 58, 4. Regal Reality (6) Akshay K 57.5, 5. Royal Deccan (4) Antony 57 and 6. Monterio (2) L.A. Rozario 56.

1. REGAL REALITY, 2. ROYAL DECCAN

4 WAR HAMMER MILLION (1,400m), 3-y-o, (Terms), 4.30: 1. Iron Mirage (2) Akshay K 57, 2. Whistling Glory (3) A. Prakash 57, 3. Deep Respect (5) Suraj 55.5, 4. Monstera (4) L.A. Rozario 55.5 and 5. Moonveil (1) Trevor 55.5.

1. MOONVEIL, 2. IRON MIRAGE

5 TRACK LIGHTNING PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 5.00: 1. Legacy Field (2) Akshay K 56, 2. Super Charm (1) A.A. Vikrant 56, 3. Theos (4) Yash 56, 4. Cantarina (7) Suraj 54.5, 5. Exotic Black (6) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 6. Mystic Dew (8) Antony 54.5, 7. Portieux (5) Neeraj 54.5 and 8. Starzella (3) Trevor 54.5.

1. LEGACY FIELD, 2. STARZELLA, 3. CANTARINA

6 RACING PATRONS PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5.30: 1. Forseti (11) Faizan Khan 62, 2. Silicon Star (8) Antony 58, 3. Badshaah (3) A. Hangal 57, 4. Master Way (12) Suhas K 55, 5. N R I Victory (4) I. Chisty 55, 6. Elysium (2) Akshay K 54.5, 7. Finley (9) Shreyas S 54.5, 8. Hazel (6) Trevor 54, 9. Eternal Glory (1) Yash 53.5, 10. Lauterbrunnen (5) M. Rajesh K 53.5, 11. Agera (7) L.A. Rozario 53 and 12. Double Vision (10) Neeraj 53.

1. ELYSIUM, 2. SILICON STAR, 3. HAZEL

Day's best: **LEGACY FIELD**
Double: **REGAL REALITY - ELYSIUM**
Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 and 6; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6.

Marathon: Satwik and Chirag displayed remarkable composure under pressure. AFP

Satwik-Chirag pair makes the title clash

The Indian duo registers a three-game win over Malaysia's Sze Fei and Izzuddin in a contest lasting an hour and 22 minutes

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

R. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men's doubles final with a riveting three-game win over Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin at the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament, here on Saturday.

World No. 4 Satwik and Chirag, who won the title in 2019 and 2024, displayed remarkable composure under pressure to outclass the World No. 9 pair 19-21, 22-20, 21-16 in a contest that lasted an hour and 22 minutes.

It will be their third final appearance at the $500,000 tournament and the first of the season.

"It feels good. We didn't start the year that well, we were also not good mentally because of that. As players, we are very very driven and we really wanted some answers. The Thomas Cup bronze medal boosted our confidence and now we are playing our first final of the year," Chirag said. "Hopefully, we can win the title."

The Indian pair will have to recover from the 82-minute contest when they face Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin.

Chirag said gaining a healthy lead midway through the decider helped him settle down mentally. "I felt quite calm on court, especially in the third game. After 5-5, we went into the interval leading 11-5 and that really boosted my confidence," he said.

Satwik credited India's Thomas Cup triumph in 2022 for changing the team's mentality and helping the pair grow in confidence.

"I was telling the players during the Thomas Cup (in Denmark) that one podium finish can change someone's life.

"That's exactly what happened for us after the Thomas Cup (2022). From there, there was no looking back. Our mentality changed and we started playing really well after that," he said.

Double delight for Joshna and Velavan

SQUASH

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Velavan Senthilkumar and Joshna Chinappa completed a double each in the third HCL National doubles squash championships at the Indian Squash Academy here on Saturday, clinching the mixed doubles title after winning the men's and women's crowns respectively.

After top seeds Joshna and Rathika Seelan secured the women's title with a comfortable 11-8, 11-4 win over the unseeded pair of Janet Vidhi and Pooja Arthi, Velavan and Abhay Singh claimed the men's title for the third straight time.

Abhay and Velavan won the opening game 11-8 after Suraj Kumar Chand and Rahul Baitha fought back from 5-8 to 7-8.

The pair took control of the second game after an even start, with Abhay's delicate drop into the corner and Velavan's crisp backhand winner helping them build a 5-2 lead. Suraj and Rahul briefly fought back to 4-5, but Abhay and Velavan maintained the pressure with controlled rallies and sharp winners to seal the game 11-5.

In the mixed doubles summit clash, Joshna and Velavan took the opening game 11-7 after leading 7-3, with Abhay and Rathika narrowing the deficit to 7-8. Abhay and Rathika led 7-4 and later 9-7 in the second game, but Joshna and Velavan fought back strongly, levelling 9-9 before taking the final two points – including a crucial stroke award – to clinch the game 11-9.

The results (finals): Men: Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar bt Rahul Baitha and Suraj Kumar Chand 11-8, 11-5. **Women:** Joshna Chinappa and Rathika Seelan bt Janet Vidhi and Pooja Arthi 11-8, 11-4. **Mixed:** Joshna Chinappa and Velavan Senthilkumar bt Rathika Seelan and Abhay Singh 11-7, 11-9.

Champions: Joshna, Velavan, Abhay and Rathika. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Villa humbles Liverpool, seals CL qualification

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BIRMINGHAM

Aston Villa secured Champions League football with a 4-2 win over Liverpool on Friday that leaves the Reds still at risk of missing out on Europe's elite competition next season.

Liverpool slips to fifth and remains just four points ahead of Bournemouth, which has two games remaining.

Harry Kane scored a hat-trick as Bayern Munich celebrated its 35th Bundesliga title with a 5-1 win over Cologne.

Stuttgart secured Champions League qualification and St. Pauli and Heidenheim were relegated elsewhere on an action-packed final matchday.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 4 (Rogers 42, Watkins 57, 73, McGinn 89) bt Liverpool 2 (Van Dijk 52, 90+2).
Bundesliga: Borussia M'gladbach 4 (Bolin 14, Tabakovic 23, Diks 81, Hack 90+1) bt Hoffenheim 0; Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Remberg 78-og) drew with Hamburg 1 (Vieira 61); Bayern Munich 5 (Kane 10, 13, 69, Bischof 22, Jackson 83) bt Cologne 1 (El Mala 18); Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Burkardt 72-pen, 90+2-pen) drew with Stuttgart 2 (Andres 10, Nartey 45+4).
Freiburg 4 (Beste 24, Matanovic 26, Ginter 47, Scherhant 75) bt RB Leipzig 1 (Ouedraogo 33); Heidenheim 0 lost to Mainz 2 (Tietz 7, Amiri 43); St. Pauli 1 (Ceesay 57) lost to Wolfsburg 3 (Koulierakis 37, Vasilj 64-og, Pejcinovic 80).
Union Berlin 4 (Ilic 10, 42, Schafer 54, Jeong 89) bt Augsburg 0; Werder Bremen 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Guirassy 59, Couto 90+5).

SKASports picks up minority stake in SPL's FC Jurong

New alliance: Koh Mui Tee, vice-chairman FC Jurong, Daisuke Korenaga, chairman FC Jurong, along with Rohit Ramesh and Sudhir Menon, both directors at SKASports. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

SkaSports Investments Private Limited, a fully Indian-owned organisation, has acquired a minority stake in NSG Global Pte Ltd, the parent and management company of top division Singapore club Football Club Jurong (FC Jurong) playing in the Singapore Premier League (SPL).

The club, known currently as Albirex Niigata Football Club (S), plays its matches at the Jurong East Stadium and is one of the eight teams that forms the top division SPL.

The club was founded in 2004 and is a six-time SPL champion. The club has officially announced a name change to FC Jurong for 2026, which will take effect from the 2026-27 season.

Sharing his thoughts on the investment, Rohit Ramesh, director of SkaSports, said: "We are excited to partner with FC Jurong and begin this journey together. This partnership is built on a shared vision to strengthen the club's foundations, enhance its overall value and support its continued progression as a competitive and forward-looking football institution in Singapore."

Sudhir Menon, director of SkaSports, said, "We are delighted to come on board and be part of FC Jurong's journey. This is an exciting opportunity to work alongside a strong management team and build on the momentum already in place, with a clear focus on unlocking long term growth, international opportunities and elevating the club's presence in Singapore and the wider region."

Meanwhile, Daisuke Korenaga, chairman of NSG Global Pte Ltd & FC Jurong, said. "Our partnership with SKA Sports represents an important step for FC Jurong as we seek to grow beyond Singapore and expand across Asia.

"Based in Singapore, a hub of Asia where companies and cultures from around the world intersect, we aim to build a unique growth model for FC Jurong by combining Japan's accumulated expertise in club management and player development with the tremendous growth potential of India, home to nearly 1.5 billion people."

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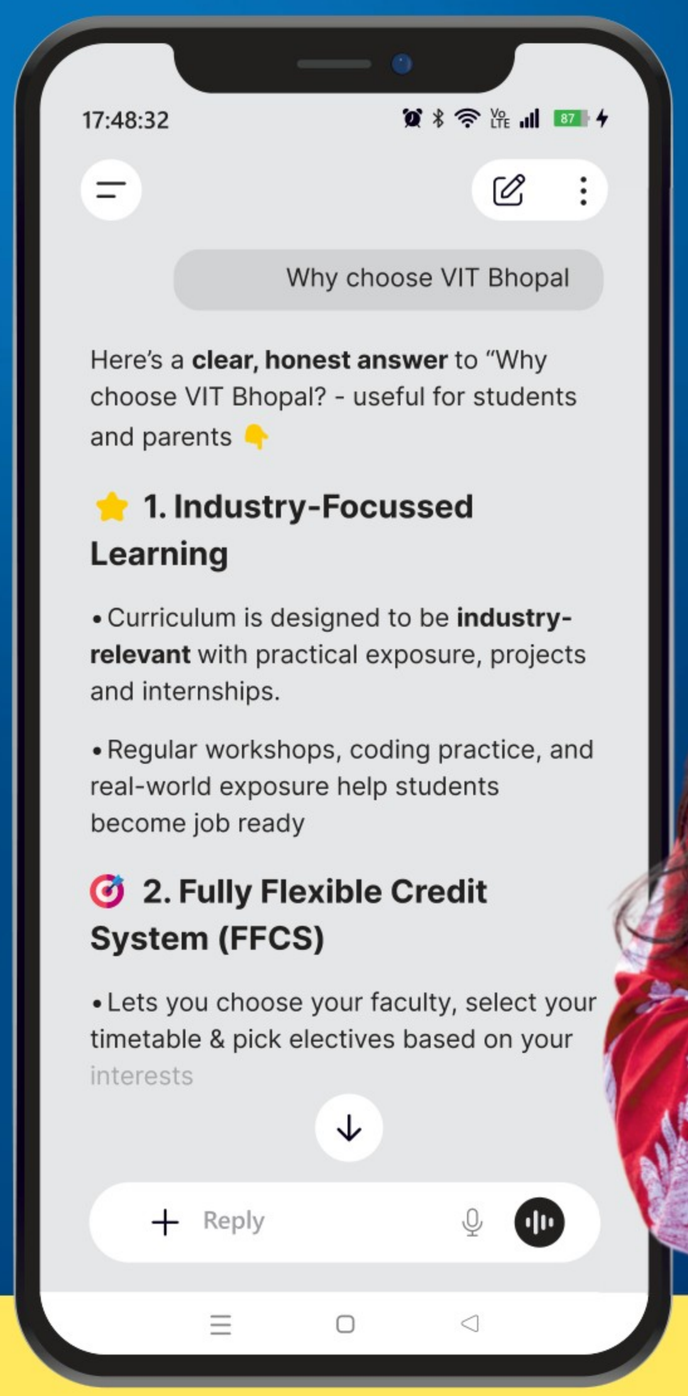
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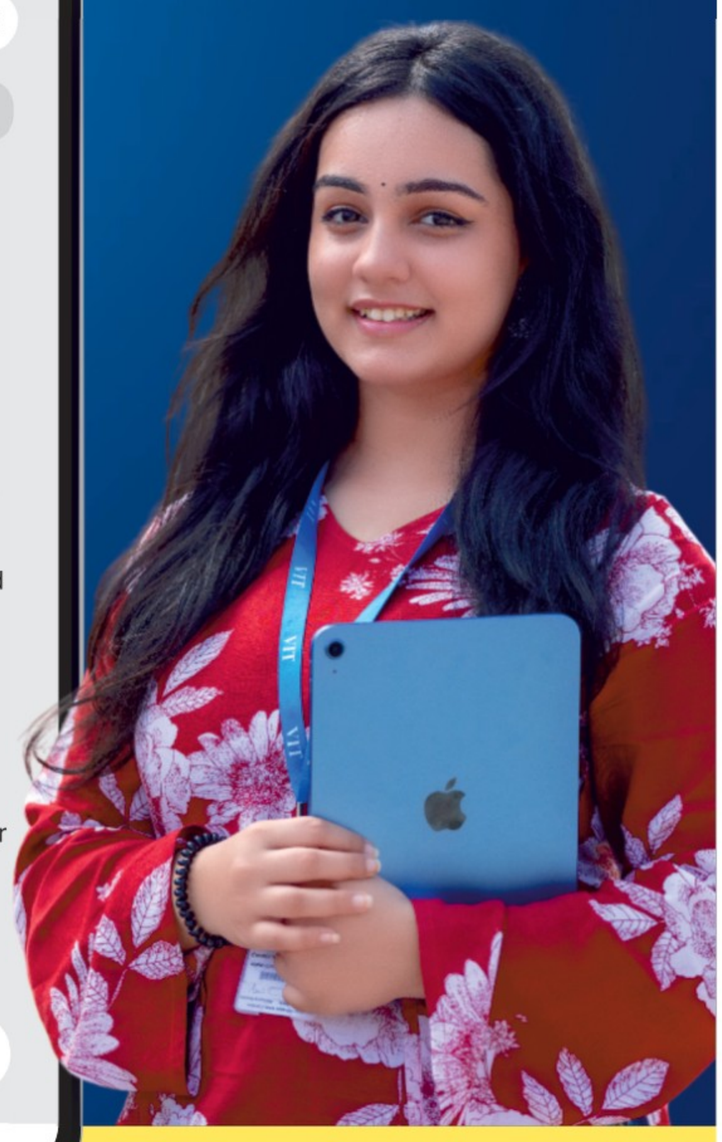

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